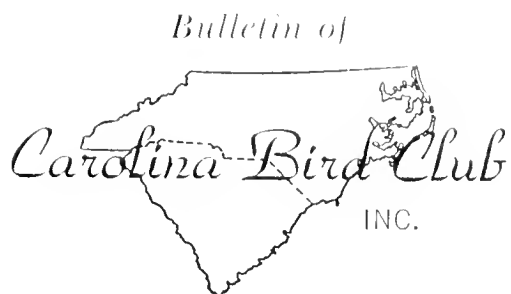


# THE CHAT



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MARCH, 1953

Number 1



# THE CHAT

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**Cover Photograph.**—White-throated Sparrow, photographed by Jack Dermid at Raleigh, January, 1953. Story and additional picture are on page 11 of this issue.

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

At this time, as the year 1953 begins, it behooves us all to consider in retrospect the progress of the Carolina Bird Club and earnestly to resolve that it shall be forward in all the years ahead. For the past year, I thank everyone who supported the Club, and who helped make possible the measure of success it attained. Without the whole-hearted cooperation of every member, any progress is difficult to achieve. The great increase in the number of both regular and supporting members, the addition of two contributing members, and a new life member during the past year are gratifying.

Especially, I wish to thank each member of the Executive Committee and of the Editorial Board for outstanding performance, forthrightness, and sacrifice of personal time. Bea Potter has done an excellent job in her first year as Editor of the *Newsletter*. May Puett, our efficient Secretary, can always be counted on. The detailed work of the Treasurer is enormous, as Margaret Wall and I well know; Boo Whitener, who is to leave soon to join her husband in Germany, is carrying on in stride. Fred May, I. S. H. Metcalf, and Joe Jones always have responded effectively when called upon for help and advice. Tom Simpson, Linville Hendren, and Fred Sample devoted many long hours to the tasks of making the field trips to Roaring Gap, N. C. and Savannah, Ga. the successes they were; they had help, of course. We were fortunate to meet jointly with the Georgia Ornithological Club for the midwinter field trip at Savannah, and I hope that additional meetings may be held with all our neighboring-state bird clubs.

And Polly Mebane is the most industrious membership chairman any club could have. I sincerely appreciate her prodigious efforts in furthering the cause of CBC.

Tom Quay, ably assisted by his wife Violet, deserves much credit for his untiring devotion to producing *The Chat*. Tom is the first to maintain, however, that without the full cooperation and assistance of the department editors—Rhett Chamberlain, Annie Faver, Charlotte Green, and Phillips Russell—and all the other members of the editorial board, his task as editor would be insurmountable. Photography, illustrations, and design are superbly handled by Jack Dermid. Tom Simpson, Doug Wade, E. B. Chamberlain and D. L. Wray give much needed advice and council. Harry Davis efficiently discharges the very large and important job of distribution. Many others willingly give all kinds of help, and I wish to thank everyone who has had a part in contributing in any way to *The Chat* last year and to ask for your continued interest this coming year.

The members of the advisory council for General Field Notes—Burnham Chamberlain, Bob Holmes, Tom Simpson, Arthur Stupka, and Bob Wolff—have given unstinting assistance to the department editor, Rhett Chamberlain. Their duties are especially important. General Field Notes is the very backbone of *The Chat*, and is responsible for much of the prestige we are gaining both within and without the Carolinas.

The above remarks are believed to be warranted at this time, not only as an expression of appreciation for the cooperation of the members, but also to point up the fact that it takes teamwork to be a healthy, respected organization which we all are happy to support.

—ROBERT OVERING

# RICEBIRDS IN THE CAROLINAS IN 1918

W. L. MCATEE

In the heyday of the industry, the finest rice in the world was grown in North and South Carolina. Birds, as well as men, liked it; blackbirds, especially the Red-wing, and the Blue Grosbeak and the Bobolink being the most addicted to feeding on the crop. They were collectively known as rice-birds, but specifically the Bobolink or Yellow Ricebird usurped the name. This species was known also as Oats Bird and May Bird, being destructive to oats in spring.

With a wide range in the North from New England to British Columbia, migrating Bobolinks were concentrated in fall as they funneled into a narrow flyway along the Atlantic Coast where lay the ricefields. The rice was at its most vulnerable stage—in the milk—at the height of abundance of the birds. Rice growing was once a mighty industry on the southeast coast, and its most important pest was the Yellow Ricebird.

To explain my use of the past tense, it should be noted that in this low-lying region the watery fields could not be drained bone-dry, and thus heavy machinery could not be used in producing the crop. New rice-growing areas were developed in Arkansas, Texas, and California, where machine culture was feasible, and, by inexorable economic law, the industry moved westward.

The period of which I write was near the end of commercial rice-growing in the Carolinas. In the year 1918, I could find only one plantation in North Carolina still cultivating rice and that was The Oaks near Wilmington, which had 75 acres. At the time of my visit (September 17-18) there were about 1,000 Yellow Ricebirds and 200 Red-winged Blackbirds in the field.

Two men and two boys were engaged in bird-minding; that meant patrolling, shouting or making mechanical noises, and shooting, to keep the birds moving. Reducing, not stopping, damage was all that was hoped for. The birds were difficult to flush, and when put on the wing usually circled and returned to the rice. They were particularly stubborn in the evening when filling up preparatory to roosting. Some of the cries of the bird-minders were: "Ah!, Ho!, Go away, Go home; Yay! Git, you rascals," or, ironically, "Set still, Don't move, Stay where you are."

The persistence of the ricebirds was exasperating and the damage they did was serious. The Oaks Plantation had bought 100 pounds of powder for the minding, besides 500 loaded shells. The struggle to save as much as possible of the crop from the birds was expensive and probably unprofitable.

There was more rice in South Carolina and, at Warrington Plantation on Goose Creek, far more damage. On September 21-22, from 20,000 to 25,000 ricebirds were observed attacking 60 acres of rice. Twenty-five acres had been damaged so badly that they were not considered worth harvesting and the total loss was estimated at 60 per cent of the potential crop.

Rice in the milk was squeezed from the hulls by the birds and smeared their bills, faces, and breasts. To some extent the rice plants also were splattered with the milk, and together with the squeezed-out hulls, which turned straw-colored, formed lighter-colored patches in the field, which could be recognized at a distance.

At this plantation, bird-minders had been shooting 500 shells a day for two weeks, but as the expense seemed in vain and the birds could not be sold as in former years to recoup some of the cost, the effort was stopped. At Rice Hope Plantation in South Carolina, across the river from Savannah, I was told that in old bird-minding days as many as 220 dozen ricebirds were collected in a day, and that in one week as high as 1,200 dozen were sent from this single plantation to the Charleston market.

Assembled information on movements of the Yellow Ricebirds was that they usually arrived about August 15 to 21; became numerous by the end of the first week in September; were at the height of their abundance from September 15 to October 1; and departed at the first cold snap, which, however, sometimes was as late as October 15. At Warrington Plantation in 1918 arrival had been exceptionally early (August 1), but there, and at places subsequently visited, the cool nights of September 22 and 23 were followed by a great reduction in numbers of the birds. The season of spring destructiveness was for about a month, culminating May 15 to 20.—3 *Davie Circle, Chapel Hill, N. C., Dec. 15, 1952.*

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## New Editors of *The Chat*

Effective March 1, 1953, Mrs. Clyde Sisson and Mrs. William Faver are the new co-editors of *The Chat*. Both Mrs. Sisson and Mrs. Faver are experienced ornithologists and journalists, and we feel fortunate in securing their services.

The new editors were appointed by the Executive Committee on January 17, 1953, while meeting at Savannah, Georgia, in conjunction with the mid-winter field trip. Due to the press of other duties and plans, Dr. T. L. Quay and Mrs. Quay submitted their resignations as editor and assistant editor on December 7, 1952, to be effective March 1, 1953.

This action by the Executive Committee was taken in accordance with the requirements of the By-Laws, which specify (*Chat* 15 (2):20, 1951): "The Executive Committee shall have the control and supervision of the publication of *The Chat*. The editor of *The Chat* shall be appointed by the Executive Committee to serve until his successor is named."—ROBERT OVERING.

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To say that people are attracted to birds because of their color, music, grace, vivacity and that sort of thing is superficial rationalization. I suspect a more fundamental reason is that birds suggest freedom and escape from restraint. ROGER TORY PETERSON, *Birds Over America*, 1948.

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Birds are our most conspicuous and most readily observed form of wild-life. Everyone is aware of them in the spring when their bright colors, lively movements, and chorus of song render them inescapable, but some birds are present at all seasons. Making the acquaintance of the common varieties in your neighborhood is an excellent way to establish a closer bond with nature. It will give you an understanding of that feeling of kinship with the denizens of the wild, so characteristic of primitive peoples, and you will gain an awareness of the order in the world of living things and a perspective on human problems and concerns that are beyond price. It is no accident that so many of our great men have been keen students of wild birds. Few forms of outdoor recreation have so much to offer. RICHARD H. POUGH, *Audubon Bird Guide—Eastern Land Birds*, 1946.  
[Reprinted by kind permission of Mr. Pough and Doubleday and Co.]

# THE TREND TOWARD MORE MEANINGFUL USE OF COMMON NAMES

THOMAS W. SIMPSON

Until about the turn of the century, knowledge of North American birds was gained almost entirely through the efforts of skilled professional ornithologists—and a few gifted amateurs who used essentially the same methods. These pioneers laid a solid foundation of facts concerning the bird life on this continent, mainly by detailed studies of collected museum specimens. In the past fifty years it has become increasingly apparent that *sight records* can be used to advantage in expanding the basic store of information, especially as it relates to the more familiar native species. Hundreds of amateur bird-watchers, armed with binoculars rather than the collector's gun, now contribute a flood of reports based on sight identification from which valuable data on distribution, prevalence, and migration can be gleaned.

A constant problem facing the compilers of the scientific record is the critical evaluation of sight records submitted by observers of varying proficiency, experience, and reliability. Most of the trouble lies, of course, in the questionable accuracy of many observations made under unfavorable field conditions. Part of the problem, however, is the continual use of unqualified *common names* that can be misunderstood or which are misleading when out of their proper context.

Can the common names now in use be consistently transposed into scientific terms without misgivings as to their exactly equivalent meaning? Do these names always convey the same sense of kinship among birds that is implied in the corresponding scientific names? Can one avoid the use of names which exceed the honest limits of sight identification? Since even the most capable amateur bird-watchers will continue to use common names alone in reporting most of their sight records, these names should be precise and free of ambiguity. They should clearly express the natural relationships of birds up to the recognized limits of field observation. There is reason to believe that common names will more nearly approach this ideal if the *species*—rather than each separate race or subspecies—is used consistently as the primary basis for their construction. Why should this be so?

It should be clearly understood in approaching the problem that the common names, no matter how convenient or easily remembered, cannot replace the scientific names. There can be no substitute for the scientific nomenclature that supports all the natural sciences including ornithology. As one will recall, modern taxonomic nomenclature began with the attempts of 18th Century naturalists to catalog all forms of plant and animal life. This endeavor was given impetus when Linnaeus introduced the consistent use of ingenious binomial expressions to replace the cumbersome descriptive phrases which had been used to characterize each species. He thus brought some degree of order to the chaotic store of knowledge which had accumulated. Constant revision of the original Linnaean classification has been necessary as new data have been gathered and enlightened concepts brought to bear, but these changes in recent years have been guided by strict codes of procedure in construction and priority of scientific names. There now exists

a sound and stable terminology which can be used in naming and classifying plants and animals, and the systematic classification resulting from its use may be said to epitomize the best existing opinion on natural relationships among living organisms and the fossil remains of their predecessors.

In asserting that the scientific nomenclature is indispensable in ornithology, one need not imply that vernacular names do not also have their place. Quite the contrary! Our common bird names have come to us as a heritage from the explorers and settlers who first saw the native birds of the New World and gave to them the only names they knew, mostly based on real or fancied resemblance to various European species. However inexact these ancestors of ours may have been in their observations and conclusions, the names which they came to use are the only ones understood by the vast majority of present-day Americans who enjoy bird-watching as a hobby. It is in fact unreasonable to presume that the technical nomenclature of the taxonomist could ever become the language of the amateur bird enthusiast. One must yield to the conclusion that birds (like most other living organisms that are of popular, as well as scientific, interest) will of necessity bear two sets of names. The only practical solution is to use the familiar common names in such a way as to make them equivalent to the scientific terms and, in a sense, interchangeable with them.

The American Ornithologists' Union bears the responsibility for offering a standard nomenclature for North American birds. The Fourth Edition of the A.O.U. *Check-List of North American Birds* (1) was introduced in 1931 and has since been modified by various supplements (2). The widespread and virtually mandatory use of this currently recommended terminology has had a favorable stabilizing influence on ornithological literature in this country. This has been particularly true with respect to the scientific names and classification. For obvious reasons, attention was centered on the scientific nomenclature in preparation of the *Check-List*. The list also includes, however, the suggested common names of birds within its scope, in a worthy effort to promote uniform usage and in deference to the fact that common names are in use by professional field workers and laymen alike. These vernacular names are quite naturally regarded as official, although they were selected from a welter of colloquial names and are in no way subject to the same sort of rigid code that governs the corresponding scientific names. It is unfortunate that more attention was not given to the vernacular names recommended for use by the Fourth Edition of the *Check-List*, for experience has shown the need for reconsideration of the principles used in their formulation.

The chief weakness of the names used in the Fourth Edition is that there is no clear-cut distinction in kind between those given to full species and those applied to subspecies. While the full implications of the species concept lie beyond the scope of the present discussion, it should be stated at this point that the *species* is considered to be a discrete biological unit. The problems of hybrids, mutations, and other exceptions to the rule of species delineation serve more often to strengthen than to invalidate the concept. The *subspecies* is a less well-defined entity: for most purposes it may be regarded simply as a geographical "race" or "variety" of a species. A relatively homogenous species may include no definitely recognizable subspecies; a less homogeneous species, such as the Marsh Wren, may be

divided into several subspecies which intergrade along the borders of their respective ranges. In the scientific nomenclature, each subspecies is designated by a modifying term which is added to the binomial name of the species to form a trinomial expression. Thus, *Telmatodytes palustris waynei* is descriptive of Wayne's race of the Marsh Wren. It may be seen that each part of the scientific name plays a part in categorizing the bird in relation to other forms. The common names are not so easily adapted to precise expression of meaning. The names that have been in use at times refer to full species and at times to a single race—giving much the same emphasis to each. One is often hard-pressed to tell (without reference to the scientific name) just which category is intended. For example, the term "Bachman's Warbler" is applied to a species, *Vermivora bachmanii*, while the apparently similar term "Cairn's Warbler" has been the name given to a subspecies of the Black-throated Blue Warbler, *Dendroica caerulescens cairnsi*. Although coupled with scientific names which clearly denote taxonomic relationships, the current official vernacular names do not, therefore, always reflect these relationships in their construction. This present disadvantage may be overcome by placing the emphasis consistently on species in devising the common names, with the subspecies indicated when necessary by an additional modifying term. This renders the common name more nearly analogous to the scientific name and stresses natural relationships in the same way.

It is undeniably proper in many circumstances to adhere rather strictly to the present edition of the *Check-List* until it is officially revised by the A.O.U. committee responsible for its preparation. This was, of course, the procedure elected by Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley in their *Birds of North Carolina* (3), and also by Sprunt and Chamberlain in *South Carolina Bird Life* (4). These capable ornithologists have won well-deserved recognition by producing works of great scientific merit, unmarred by casual deviation from strict taxonomic protocol. It is anticipated, however, that the forthcoming Fifth Edition of the *Check-List* will consistently use the principle of emphasizing species in construction of the recommended common names. Furthermore, there is widespread and steadily increasing use of such species names among field workers at the present time, and it seems a mistake to retain the old names based on subspecies for use in reporting sight records.

Names based on species are of practical advantage to the field bird-watcher who has neither the time nor the inclination to collect and prepare specimens, but who is in a position to make methodical sight observations. Such an individual is generally limited to observations of living birds seen out-of-doors under varying conditions of visibility, with or without the aid of binoculars. He seldom has an opportunity to examine a specimen in the hand and much less often has a chance to compare a series of museum skins. He must rely on fairly conspicuous markings, patterns of color, voice, characteristic behavior, and habitat preference. These features usually serve quite well to identify a bird as to species. The more subtle differences in coloration and average measurements which mark subspecies can seldom be evaluated on a living bird in the field: these are largely beyond the ken of the field observer. Actually, the separation of subspecies resolves itself almost always into a matter of careful comparison in the hand—a matter demanding not only special training and experience but also an adequate series of specimen skins. The examiner is faced with the problem of dis-



tinguishing differences which mark a subspecies from those which may be due simply to individual variation (sex, state of maturity, color phases, seasonal changes, and plumage wear). This is made more difficult by the tendency of races to overlap and intergrade in various respects along the borders of their contiguous ranges, so that recognition of subspecific variations is truly a matter of expert opinion. It is indeed unfortunate that, when bird-watching began its development as a popular hobby half a century ago, the emphasis on subspecies was carried over into the ranks of the amateurs—instead of properly remaining in the domain of the professional systematic ornithologist. The intricate process of determining subspecific status constitutes a vital phase in studies on avian distribution and behavior, but the problem is not one which lends itself to study through binoculars. Undue preoccupation by the field observer with subspecific distinctions may rightly be regarded as an unsound practice. Since this can largely be prevented by placing strict emphasis on species recognition, one may easily see the merit in using common names based on species in reporting sight records.

Alden H. Miller was among the first in the United States to express the logic in such an approach to the problem of common names. In his introduction to *The Distribution of the Birds of California* (5), he gives the logical plan used by the authors and adds a cogent argument for intellectual honesty in naming birds on sight in the field. He states:

Further, we would remark that a person has no right to use the first name [i.e., the subspecific designation] of the vernacular combination unless he has positive evidence, and this usually means specimen-evidence, that he actually is dealing with the subspecies denoted. It is the impossibility of such racial identification in almost all field observations, except by gratuitous assumption based on the findings or writings of other persons, that leads us to plead strongly for use of species names alone in these circumstances. In time we may establish this ideal practice which is simple and above all fully honest and hence scientific.

The principle of emphasizing species in common names has already been adopted for use in *Audubon Field Notes*. In establishing the editorial policy in 1950, John W. Aldrich (6) stated:

*Audubon Field Notes* has felt an increasing need for a uniform usage of definite common or vernacular names for different species of birds which may be used without reference to subspecies or to the scientific names. . . . Since contributors frequently refer to the species by the name of its subspecies which they think should represent it in their part of the country, the need for a standard listing of names to be used has become acute.

The editors of that bulletin devoted to field ornithology accordingly prepared an inclusive list of species names for use pending revision of the A.O.U. *Check-List*. Aldrich (6) explains, "The one primary consideration has been that each species should have a distinctive common name which may be used without reference to its subspecies and which would distinguish it from any other North American species."

Roger T. Peterson has done a great deal to popularize these ideas on bird names, first in *A Field Guide to Western Birds* (7), and then in the second revision of his classic *A Field Guide to the Birds* (8). The highly pertinent

TABLE 1. A SELECTED LIST OF COMMON NAMES OF SPECIES FOR USE IN THE CAROLINAS. ONLY THE "PROBLEM NAMES" HAVE BEEN INCLUDED.

Preferred Common Names of Species (adapted from various sources)	Corresponding Scientific Names of Species (AOU Check-List)	Confusing Subspecific Names to be Avoided in Reporting Sight Records
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Lesser Loon
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Colymbus grisegena</i>	Holboell's Grebe
Dusky Shearwater	<i>Puffinus lherminieri</i>	Aububon's Shearwater
Cinereous Shearwater	<i>Puffinus diomedea</i>	Cory's Shearwater
Common Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	European Cormorant
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Florida Cormorant
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Ward's Heron
Common Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	American Egret
Tricolored Heron	<i>Hydranassa tricolor</i>	Louisiana Heron
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Richardson's Goose
Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	European Teal
American Widgeon (Baldpate)	<i>Marcca americana</i>	
Common Golden-eye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	
Black Scoter	<i>Oidemia nigra</i>	American Scoter
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	American Merganser
Rough-legged Hawk	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	(American Rough-legged Hawk)
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Duck Hawk
Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Florida Gallinule
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	
American Oyster-catcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Semipalmated Plover
Thick-billed Plover	<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	Wilson's Plover
American Woodcock	<i>Philohela minor</i>	
Common Snipe	<i>Capella gallinago</i>	Wilson's Snipe
Dunlin	<i>Erolia alpina</i>	Red-backed Sandpiper (Red-backed Dunlin)
American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalassus sandvicensis</i>	Cabot's Tern
Thick-billed Murre	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Brunnich's Murre
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Eastern Nighthawk, Florida Nighthawk
Yellow-shafted Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Boreal Flicker, Northern Flicker, Southern Flicker
Great-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	
Traill's Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Alder Flycatcher
Eastern Wood Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Northern Raven
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Eastern Crow, Southern Crow, Florida Crow
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	Appalachian Chickadee
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	Florida Nuthatch
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Southern Creeper
Marsh Wren	<i>Telmatorhytes palustris</i>	Long-billed Marsh Wren, Worthington's M. W., Waynes M. W., Prairie M. W.
Sedge Wren (Short-billed Marsh Wren)	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Eastern Robin, Southern Robin
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Hylocichla fuscescens</i>	Olive-backed Thrush, Russett-backed Thrush
Gray-cheeked Thrush	<i>Hylocichla minima</i>	Bicknell's Thrush
Wilson's Thrush (Vecry)	<i>Hylocichla fuscescens</i>	Willow Thrush
Common Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	American Pipit
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Migrant Shrike
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	
Solitary Vireo	<i>Virco solitarius</i>	Blue-headed Vireo, Mountain Vireo
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	Cairn's Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	Wayne's Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	Sycamore Warbler
Small-billed Water-Thrush	<i>Sciurus noveboracensis</i>	Northern Water-Thrush, Grinnell's Water-Thrush
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
Common Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Eastern Meadowlark, Southern Meadowlark

Common Grackle (Crow-blackbird) .....	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i> .....	Purple Grackle (Stone's Grackle), Florida Grackle, Bronzed Grackle, "Ridgeway's Grackle"
Common Cowbird .....	<i>Molothrus ater</i> .....	.....
American Goldfinch .....	<i>Spinus tristis</i> .....	.....
Red Crossbill .....	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i> .....	Newfoundland Crossbill, Sitka Crossbill, Bendire's Crossbill
Eastern Towhee .....	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i> .....	Red-eyed Towhee, Alabama Towhee, White-eyed Towhee
Sharp-tailed Sparrow .....	<i>Ammodramus caudatus</i> .....	Acadian Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow, James Bay Sparrow
Bachman's Sparrow .....	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i> .....	Pine-woods Sparrow, Illinois Sparrow
Slate-colored Junco .....	<i>Junco hyemalis</i> .....	Carolina Junco
White-crowned Sparrow .....	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> .....	Gambel's Sparrow

remarks of this writer on soft-pedaling subspecies are well worth the time spent in perusing the section devoted to the topic in each guide. The names used by Peterson, as well as those listed by Aldrich for use in *Audubon Field Notes*, are logical ones which have for some time been in use by thoughtful field ornithologists. There has been a recent trend toward the use of similar species names in works by other writers, notably Pough (9, 10), Peters and Burleigh (11), Pettingill (12), and Murray (13). Many of these choices of common names, which reflect current usage, will ultimately appear in the Fifth Edition of the *Check-List*.

There seems to be no good reason why the plan of emphasis on species names, as urged by these writers and others, should not be put into general use at once for reporting sight records. This can be done without difficulty, as attested by the ready acceptance of the plan by contributors to *Audubon Field Notes*. Countless observers have, in fact, long since adopted the plan for their own use because of its simplicity. For the convenience of observers in the Carolinas, a selected list of species names has been compiled for use in this region (chiefly from the sources mentioned above) and is appended.

As a rule, one should not have difficulty in field identification at the species level. Upon occasion, however, certain full species cannot be safely separated on sight. In these cases, it becomes necessary to use a generic or sub-generic name which is descriptive of the whole group. Often the scientific name of the genus will suffice: Peterson, for example, suggests the use of the term "*Empidonax* sp." for any member of that genus of small flycatchers when field identification has been uncertain.

Finally, it should be remembered that expert opinion may continue to fluctuate regarding the validity of certain species and subspecies, so that the scientific names will change. This is actually one of the reasons advanced for holding to the old common names: that no matter how the specific or subspecific rank of the bird was modified, the old familiar names would remain stable. It would seem more advantageous, however, for these changes which mark the advance of ornithology to be reflected in the common names. Occasional modifications need not be disquieting if, rather than becoming dependent on a stereotyped set of common names, one will develop a discriminating sense of appreciation for the principles that underlie the system of nomenclature.

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3252 Reynolda Road, Winston-Salem, N. C., Jan. 15, 1952

## Editorial Policy on Common Names

THOMAS L. QUAY

Dr. Simpson's excellent and timely paper on common names has been fifteen months in preparation, having been requested by the editors in October of 1951. After Dr. Simpson had revised his paper several times, we sent it to each of the following six nationally-known authorities for critical review: Dr. John Aldrich, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Dr. Alexander Wetmore, Smithsonian Institution; Dr. Ernst Mayr, American Museum of Natural History; Ludlow Griscom, Harvard College; Dr. Josselyn Van Tyne, University of Michigan; and Dr. Alden H. Miller, University of California. All of these men were most cordial in their willingness to make helpful comments, and in commending Dr. Simpson for his well-prepared article; their suggestions have been incorporated in the final paper, and we are deeply indebted to them for their invaluable services.

Dr. Simpson's paper speaks for itself. The editors are in agreement with the principles stated, and offer it as the policy to be followed in *The Chat*. The new inclusive names for species are used in this issue in the Christmas Census table. We hope to print in the June issue a complete check-list for use in the Carolinas.

Dr. Ernst Mayr, in a letter dated April 30, 1952, stated, "To omit subspecies names in papers by non-taxonomists and, in particular, in papers on sight identifications is now the universal practice throughout the world." We owe much to Dr. Simpson for his untiring labors in bringing *The Chat* up-to-date in this important matter.—*Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 17, 1953.*

## SPIRIT OF WINTER

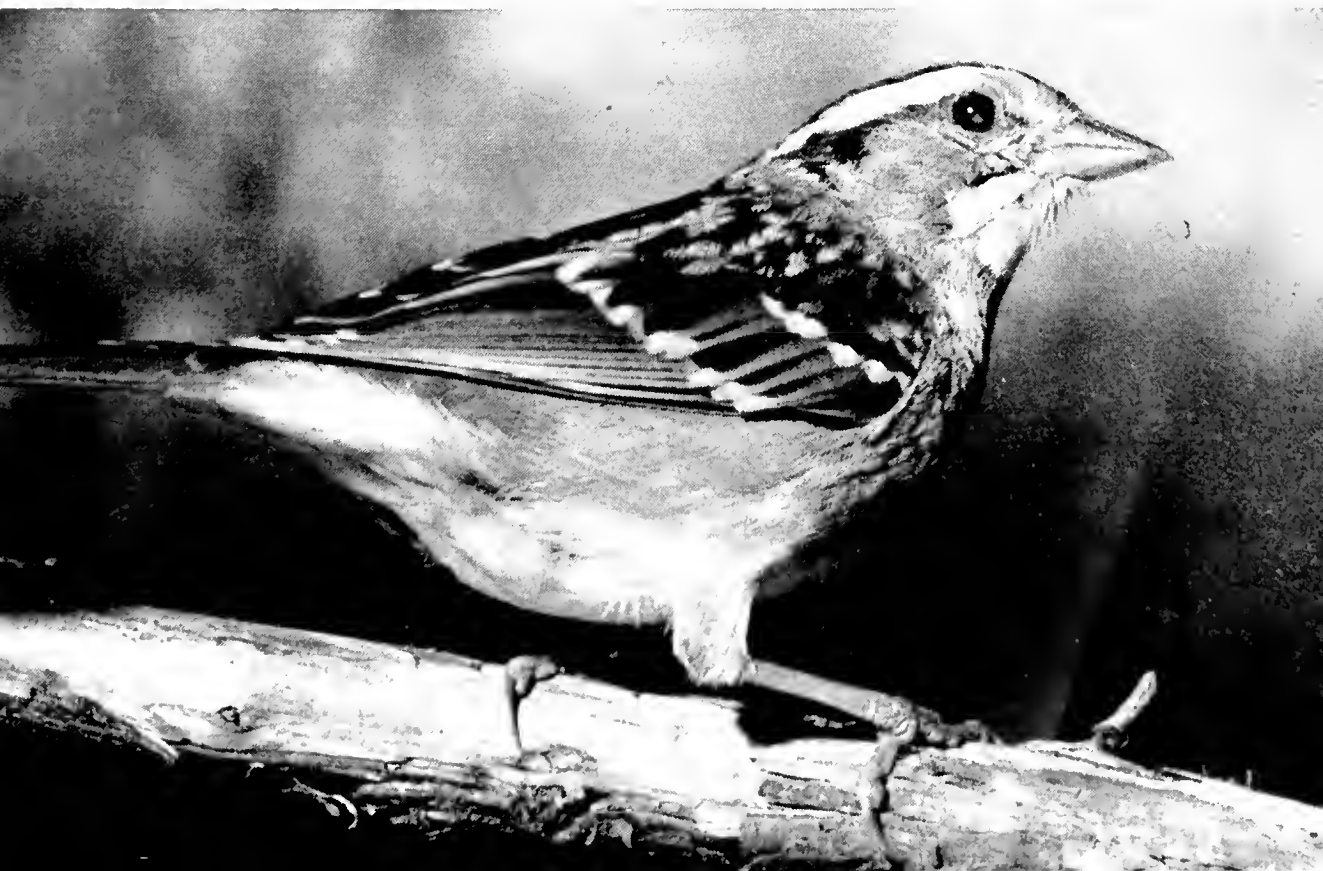
Story and pictures by JACK DERMID

The White-throated Sparrow is so much a part of the winter scene in the Carolinas that it needs no introduction. The first "field" sparrow most beginners of bird study learn with any surety, it shows up on every field trip list. During the colder months, few of our coverts and feeding stations lack its flocks. If any bird could be crowned the "spirit of winter," it is the White-throat.

The White-throat does not slip silently into the southland like most of our winter visitors. Its arrival is announced in October with a frail song—yet one so powerful in quality as to command full attention and so pleasing as to demand silence for an encore. Sometimes the song is so faint and mixed with the autumn breezes that it is hardly heard at all. It is there, however, and once heard it is never forgotten.

The sparrow is somewhat shy at first appearance. Unless sought out it may be several weeks before it is seen. But soon fall colors fade. Winter comes to the land, and the White-throat becomes a pet about the doorstep, constantly scratching about for seeds or other tidbits. On frosty mornings, with feathers fluffed up to double proportions, it sits on Blackberry briars or Wild Plum bushes, seeking warmth from a feeble sun. The song has subsided with the falling leaves.

Silence does not last long. With the coming warmer days in late winter, a single sparrow begins to sing of the approaching spring. Others soon take up the chorus which gains in momentum until the peak is reached in May. "Swee-e-t, Canada, Canada, Canada" with all its softness and plaintiveness is heard even among the loud spring songs of other birds. The White-throat's song is full of meaning now. To those who know the north country, it is reminiscent of cool coniferous forests, of muskeg swamps, and of loneliness. The White-throat is announcing its departure. We listen again in vain. The "spirit of winter" is gone.



# CHRISTMAS CENSUS, 1952

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Dept. Editor*

The 1952 winter census in the Carolinas should drive home something. Last summer we went through one of the hottest and driest periods on record. Last fall we suffered from the earliest killing freezes on record. The sad plight of our crops, and those of the east generally, drew national attention. And what did poor Robin do then? Maybe he got a good laugh over the frailty of our specialized food crops. It didn't seem to bother him. Making proper allowances for the absence of reports from our coastal refuges, we counted more birds than ever on our 1952 Christmas census.

Most of the localities show increases over last year. The Raleigh, N. C., figures are comparable: In 1951, cloudy, ave. temp. 40°, 9 observers, 60 species, 1,727 individuals; 1952, cloudy, ave. temp. 44°, 9 observers, 67 species, 1,875 individuals.

With 142 species, Wilmington is very likely again near the top in national rank. Aurora, Todd, and Linville, N. C., and Summerville, S. C., are newcomers on the list. Illness of key observers, or their families, prevented the taking of the Statesville census and handicapped the participation at Lenoir and other points.

Excepting the accidental occurrence of a Summer Tanager on Bull's Island, S. C., there were no sensational finds. The Bonaparte's Gull at Elkin, N. C., was unusually far inland. The abundance of Robins is up for further study.

To save space, the following 22 single-locality species are not listed in the tables. *Charleston*: Pigeon Hawk—1, Knot—1, Marbled Godwit—1, Wood Thrush—1, Summer Tanager—1; *Wilmington*: Green Heron—4, American Bittern—1, European Widgeon—1, White-winged Scoter—1, Black Scoter—3, Osprey—2, King Rail—1, Piping Plover—1, Eastern Dowitcher—4, Western Sandpiper—1, Laughing Gull—29, Forster's Tern—55, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—12; *Eastover*: Short-eared Owl—2; *Aiken*: Red-cockaded Woodpecker—7; *Charlotte*: Woodcock—1; *Great Smokies*: Red Crossbill—36.

As was done last year, the Greater and Lesser Scaup Ducks are listed as Scaup Duck (Sp.), and the Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees as Chickadee (Sp.). In areas where both birds commonly occur, credit is given in the count for both.

The arrangement of the table in approximate order of altitude shows, at the left side, the concentration along our coast, the central portion presents the Piedmont region, and the right side the high mountains to the west.—B. R. C.

## DATA ON THE COUNTS

AURORA, N. C. (area centering at Aurora and extending to South Creek, Edward, and Hickory Point; fields 50%, mixed pine and hardwoods 12%, open water 12%, marsh 8%, cypress-gum swamp 5%, suburban 2%).—Dec. 24: 8:50 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Partly clear; temp. 50°-68°-50°, near calm, ground bare, moist. One observer. Total hours 9 (4 on foot, 3 by rowboat, 2 by car); total miles 67 (7 on foot, 4 by rowboat, 56 by car). Harold C. Jones (Greenville, N. C.). Total species 47; total individuals about 2100.

CHAPEL HILL, N. C. (same area as in last 22 years: oak-hickory climax, 30%, low ground thickets and farmland, 30%, marsh and lake shores, 30%, pine forest, 5%, town, 5%). Dec. 27: 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cloudy until 1:00 p.m.; clearing to sunny; temp. 32° to 49°; wind W to SW, 5 mph. Thirteen observers in 9 parties. Total party hours 26 (23 on foot, 3 by car); total party miles 47 (29 by car, 18 on foot). Total species 70; total individuals about 1800. Douglas Atack, Coit Coker, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Kaighn, Mrs. Edna Northend, Thomas Odum, Mark Orr, Phillips Russell, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Sharpe, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Thompson, Mrs. Adelaide Walters (compiler).

CHARLOTTE, N. C. (same area as last ten years, but water mostly confined to pond on Beattie's Ford Road, since the main body at Johnston's pond was drained during the fall: pine, gum, cedar, poplar, 40%, hedgerows 10%, cleared 49%, water 1%).—Dec. 27: 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Morning cloudy, clearing later; temp. 35° to 50°, light wind, ground wet.

Eight observers in 3 parties. Total party hours, 27 (14 on foot, 13 by car); total party miles 70 (20 on foot, 50 by car). Total species 56; total individuals about 650. Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Chamberlain, B. R. Chamberlain, Jr., Norman Chamberlain, Leeds Cushman, Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson, Steve Mahaley, Olin P. Wearn (Mecklenburg Audubon Club).

ELKIN, N. C. (practically same area as in last several censuses, centering in Elkin, including airport, Cedarbrook Golf Course, Roundabout Farm, Klondike Farm, seven lakes, and Yadkin River: farm and pasture land 55%, timber, largely pine, 40%, water 5%).—Dec. 27: 8:00 a.m. to 5:40 p.m. Overcast, clearing to bright sunshine in p.m. Temp. 36° to 48°, wind NW, 5 mph. Thirteen observers in 4 parties. Total party hours, 38; total party miles, 58 (16 on foot, 42 by car). Total species 60; total individuals about 2200. The Bonaparte's Gull remained on Klondike Lake three days and was watched by 4 observers within 50 feet. The Catbird was extremely late. White-crowned Sparrows were more abundant than ever before. Tom Bryan, Jr., Dick Chatham, Hugh G. Chatham, Richard T. Chatham, John W. Hanes, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Linville Hendren, Tom Hendren, E. M. Hodel (compiler), Mrs. E. M. Hodel, Bill and Tom Roth, Hubert Willis.

GREENSBORO, N. C. (area centering  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile SW radio station WBIG. Same as in 1951; deciduous and pine woods 25%, thickets 15%, lakes and ponds 25%, open fields 15%, marsh and wooded swamps 10%, lawns and parks 10%).—Dec. 27; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cloudy to partially cloudy in p.m. Temp. 36° to 50°; wind WNW, 7-10 mph, water open. Thirty-two observers in 13 parties; total party hours 89, total party miles 277 (59 on foot, 118 by car). Total species 77; total individuals about 15,300. The number of Robins was placed at 2343. The number reported in the 1951 census for Greensboro was one Robin. Mrs. B. J. Benson, Mrs. W. C. Carr, John Carr, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Craft, James Furr, Mamie Gray, Dale Kellar, C. R. Lambe, Ann Locke, James Mattocks, Mrs. Robert McCoy, H. L. Medford (compiler), Mrs. H. L. Medford, H. L. Medford, Jr., Ethel McNairy, Ida Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. George Perrett, Dr. Hollis Rogers, Etta Schiffman, Edith Settan, Dr. and Mrs. A. D. Shaftesbury, Dr. and Mrs. T. W. Simpson, Tom Street, George A. Smith, Mrs. W. F. Smyre, Dr. Wesley Taylor, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Mrs. R. H. Wiser. (Piedmont Bird Club).

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK, TENN.-N. C. (same as 1937 and subsequent years).—Dec. 28; 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Overcast below 3000 ft. altitude until noon, clear all day above 3000 ft. Temp. 10° to 38°; wind mostly SW. 1-10 mph; ground bare at low and middle altitudes, crusted snow in patches above 5000 ft. Thirty observers in 10 parties. Total party hours 72 (62 on foot, 10 by car); total party miles 172 (66 on foot, 106 by car). Total species 57; total individuals about 3300. The 4 White-crowned Sparrows, the first to appear on the census for this area, were observed by Dr. Joseph C. Howell near Pigeon Forge. Jon Beasley, Hubert Bebb, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Broome, Mary Ruth Chiles, William Cole, Brockway Crouch, Hugh Davis, Jr., Ronald Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Dunbar, Keeton Griffin, Joseph C. Howell, Don Hurley, William M. Johnston, May Kedney, Richard Laurence, Mrs. Frank Leonhard, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Monroe, S. A. Ogden, Mrs. E. E. Overton, J. B. Owen, Robert R. Scott, Arthur Stupka (compiler), James T. Tanner, Fred Taylor, Charles Thompson, Samuel R. Tipton, D. W. Yambert (Tenn. Ornithological Society, National Park Service, and guests).

GREENVILLE, N. C. (area centering on Falkland Highway, 2 miles west of Greenville; fields 40%, mixed pine-hardwoods 33%, river 12%, cypress-gum swamp 10%, suburban 5%).—Dec. 23; 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cloudy, misty; temp. 47° to 48°; wind SW, 10 mph.; ground moist. Four observers in 4 parties; total party hours 11 (9 on foot, 2 by car); total party miles 70 (13 on foot, 57 by car). Total species 44; total individuals 747. Joseph D. Biggs, Dr. B. McK. Johnson, Harold C. Jones (compiler), Mrs. T. Y. Walker.

HENDERSON, N. C. (area adjacent to town; open and cut over fields 50%, creek and lakes 20%, mixed woods 15%, bottom lands 10%, lawns 5%).—Dec. 22; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cloudy and windy; temp. 44° to 48°. Three observers in one party. Total party hours 8; total party miles 30 (5 on foot, 25 in car). Total species 56; total individuals about 2950. White-crowned Sparrows, not found in previous winters, have moved into the area in some numbers. Mrs. A. W. Bachman (compiler), Mariel Gary and Garnette Myers.

HIGH POINT, N. C. (area same as last year).—Dec. 27; 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear, calm; temp. 30°-55°-40°. Total party miles 23 (8 on foot, 15 by car). Twenty observers in 4 parties. Most observers at feeders. Total species 55; total individuals about 1275. Mrs. Harry Alexander, Barbara Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Esherman, Mrs. James Edwards, Mrs. W. F.

Ellis, Mrs. Minta Hughes, Mrs. C. C. Haworth, Margaret Haworth, Mrs. Worth Ivey, Mrs. J. W. Lindsay, Mrs. C. B. Mattocks, James Mattocks (compiler), Mrs. James Mattocks, Mrs. D. R. Parker, Miss May Alice Siceloff, Mrs. Ethel Sherrod, Miss Marjorie Welborn, Jimmie Mattocks, James Furr (Catesby Bird Club).

LENOIR, N. C. (area confined, due to sickness, to vicinity of homes of Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Greer and Mrs. C. S. Warren).—Dec. 23 (Warren) and Dec. 28 (Greer). Total species 31; total individuals 200. This count is included because it lists one more species than was counted last year by fourteen observers. Total observers 6, in 2 parties. Johnny Houston, Mrs. C. S. Warren, Isabell Bernhardt, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Greer, Mrs. K. A. Link.

LINVILLE, N. C. (parts NE to S of town, including Grandfather Mt., Yonahlossee Highway, Blue Ridge Parkway, Beacon Heights, Linville Lake, Golf Course; altitude 3700 to 5400 ft.; mixed deciduous and coniferous woodlands 80%, golf course 15%, Lake shore 5%).—Dec. 27; 6:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cloudy to clear; temp. 17° to 35°; wind 15-40 mph.; ground bare, lake frozen over. One observer. Total hours 9¾ (9 on foot, ¾ by car); total miles 16 (8 on foot, 8 by car). Total species 13; total individuals 174. Fred W. Behrend.

RALEIGH, N. C. (Practically same area as in previous counts; lakes and small ponds 25%, mixed pine and deciduous woodland 40%, deciduous woodland 20%, open fields 15%).—Dec. 20; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cloudy all day, calm; temp. 38°-50°; ground bare, water open. Nine observers in 6 parties. Total party hours 31 (27 on foot, 4 by car); total party miles 57 (27 on foot, 30 by car). Total species 67; total individuals about 1875. Philip Davis, Mrs. Charlotte H. Green, James F. Greene, W. L. Hamnett, F. B. Meacham, Robert Overing, D. L. Wray (compiler), Mrs. D. L. Wray, John Wray. The Catbird listed was seen by Davis, Mrs. Green, and Wray. The Ring-billed Gull by Overing; the Bewick's Wren by Wray.

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C. (same as in past several years).—Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cold, almost cloudless; temp. 38° to 48°; no wind. Three in one party. Party miles 94 (4 on foot, 90 by car). Total species 48; total individuals about 2150. The Rev. and Mrs. Gray Temple, J. W. E. Joyner (compiler).

TODD, N. C. (no previous census; area centering near Post Office, along Ashe-Watauga County line, including terrain along S. Fork of New River and Bald Mt. (alt. 2800 to 3500 ft); pasture 60%, plowed land 5%, deciduous farm woodlots 20%, rhododendron thicket 10%, white pine-hemlock forest 5%).—Dec. 20; 8:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Rain, snow, sleet; temp. 33°; wind W, 5-10 mph.; ground frozen, light cover of snow, light ice on stream banks. Five observers in 2 parties. Total party hours 15 (11 on foot, 4 by car); total party miles 67 (17 on foot, 50 by car). Total species 25; total individuals about 375. J. Leon Coulter, F. R. Derrick, Mrs. A. Burman Hurt (compiler), James T. Miller, J. Clyde Miller.

WILMINGTON, N. C. (eighth count in area, centering on Carolina Beach Road, including Wrightsville Beach and Sound, Masonboro and Greenville Sounds, Winter Park, Orton and Pleasant Oaks plantation and Greenfield Lake. Mixed pine and deciduous woodland 60%, freshwater ponds and rivers 15%, beach and salt marsh 20%, pasture 5%).—Dec. 27; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Cloudy all day; temp. 38° to 54°; wind NW, 7-15 mph. Fifteen observers in 5 parties. Total party hours 49 (25 on foot, 24 by car); total party miles 191 (36 on foot, 155 by car). Total species 142. Total individuals about 10,700. Cecil Appleberry, Edna Appleberry (compiler), Mary Baker, Clifford Comeau, Robert Holmes, III, Bill James, Ruth Loman, Polly Mebane, Steve Messenger, Claude McAllister, Harold Olsen, Oscar Paris, Phil Sandlin, Cratie Sandlin, Marie Vander Schalie.

WINDOM, N. C. (same area as last year).—Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear; temp. 30°-40°; wind 20 mph.; ground bare. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party hours 16 (8 on foot, 8 by car); total party miles 35 (15 on foot, 20 by car). Total species 26; total individuals about 730. Paul Hughes, Roosevelt Hughes, James Hutchins (compiler), Wade Styles.

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. (about same area as last year, including Salem Lake and Yadkin River; pasture 5%, deciduous forests 20%, evergreen forests 15%, old fields 20%, lakes and creek bottoms 20%, suburbs 20%).—Dec. 20; 6:15 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 32°-39°; wind N, 5-15 mph. Eight observers in 4 parties. Total party hours 45 (37 on foot, 8 by car); total party miles 116 (25 on foot, 91 by car). Total species 55; total individuals about 3250. Mary Buckner, Robert Kissam, Dr. and Mrs. T. W. Simpson, Dr. and Mrs. M. P. Spencer, J. L. Stephenson, R. H. Witherington (compiler).



AIKEN, S. C. (same routes as 1951, but now centering on Aiken Training Track; pasture, plowed and abandoned fields 26%, mixed pine and hardwood forests 23%, semi-open farmland 18%, burned-out woods area 15%, suburbs 10%, swamps and ponds 8%).—Dec. 22; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Clear a.m. to cloudy; temp. 33° to 58°; wind variable, 1-10 mph; ground wet. One observer. Total hours 11 (7½ on foot, 3½ by car); total miles 24 (8½ on foot, 15½ by car). Total species 52; total individuals about 1900. Seen during period, Black Vultures—8. William Post, Jr.

CHARLESTON, S. C. (area same as in previous years, centering NE of city to include Bull's Island and mainland to the cypress swamp).—Dec. 26; all day; clear and cold; temp. 47° to 52°; eighteen observers in 4 parties. Total species 128; total individuals about 3700. Theo Beckett II, E. Milby Burton (compiler), John Henry Dick, R. D. Edwards, Julian Harrison, Mrs. Mary E. Kerr, Renwick Kerr, Richard McLean, I. S. Metcalf, Mr. and Mrs. I. S. H. Metcalf, Louis Parker, Jr., Alexander Sprunt, Jr., James Sprunt, Thomas Uzzell, Jr., Arthur Wilcox, Ellison Williams.

CLEMSON, S. C. (College Bottoms, N and S of Hunnicutt Creek; the Keowee and Lake Issaqueena sections of Land-Use area, including the Mourning Dove sanctuary. Bottomland fields 12%, bottom woodlands 24%, pine-hardwoods 24%, water area 24%, brush 5%, upland fields including wildlife food patches 11%).—Dec. 27; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. One observer; total hours 9½ (8 on foot, 1½ by car; total miles 30 (10 on foot, 20 by car). Temp. 34° to 55°; cloudy a.m., to clearing. Total species 54; total individuals about 1675. Douglas E. Wade.

COLUMBIA, S. C. (same as last year with the addition of town of Eau Claire to N, and Burrell Manning property to SE; deciduous river and creek swamps 30%, pine woods 20%, open fields 28%, lake shores 10%, urban 12%).—Dec. 26; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dense fog early, clear by 10:00 a.m.; temp. 35° to 58°; no wind. Twelve observers in 6 parties: Total party hours 25 (21 on foot, 4 by car); total party miles 112 (18 on foot, 94 by car). Total species 66; total individuals about 3325. Gilbert J. Bristow (compiler), Mr. Carter, Mr. and Charles Eastman, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Hartin, Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Hendrix, Edward C. Lee, David Monteith, Fred Sample, Mrs. Clyde Sisson.

EASTOVER, S. C. (from center of town along Highway 764 to Scarborough's and Weston's ponds; across country to Community Pond via Haithcock's Pond. Then to Wateree Hereford Farm and to Armour's pond. Cultivated fields 33%, grass pasture 33%, deciduous and pine woods 14%, residential grounds 5%, stream and pond edges 15%).—Dec. 23; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Cloudy, occasional showers; temp. 40° to 50°; wind SE, 5 to 15 mph. Two observers in one party. Total hours 7 (1 on foot, 6 in car); total party miles 20 (1 on foot, 19 by car). Total species 66; total individuals about 1600. Mrs. W. H. Faver, Mrs. Clyde Sisson.

GREENVILLE, S. C. (same as last year, centered at Union Bleachery. Pine and deciduous woods 30%, open fields and border thickets 65%, reservoirs and ponds 5%).—Dec. 27; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cloudy, clearing in p.m.; temp. 36° to 52°; little wind. Total observers 8, in two parties. Total party hours 13. Total party miles 73 (3 on foot, 70 by car). Total species 47; total individuals about 950. Mrs. E. C. Crumpton, Ruth Gilreath, Gladys Hart, Lillie Hart, Rosa Lee Hart, Mary Jenkinson, May W. Puett, P. M. Jenness (compiler).

SPARTANBURG, S. C. (area including Zimmerman's Lake, Duncan Park lake, Ezell woods, Pierce's fish pond, and Silver Lake; open farmland 15%, mixed woodlands 20%, fresh water lakes, ponds, marshes 45%).—Dec. 21; 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; cloudy to clearing in p.m.; temp. 38° to 60°; wind 5 mph. Fourteen observers in 5 parties. Total hours 35 (30 on foot, 5 in car); total party miles 30 (12 on foot, 18 by car). Total species 61; total individuals about 4650. Flora Beymer, Gabriel Cannon, Louisa Carlisle, A. M. Copeland, Harold Correll, Ruth Crick (compiler), Margaret Hammond, Rudy Johnson, John McCutcheon, Tucker McCravy, Dr. R. E. Rupp, Granville Syndor, Dr. W. P. Walker, Dr. and Mrs. John O. Watkins.

SUMMERVILLE, S. C. (area includes the Miles farm, country club, abandoned race track, and sand pit, all within 6 miles of the city limits. Swamps 10%, broom-grass fields 5%, lake shore 5%, pine and mixed woods 20%, farm lands 60%).—Dec. 27; 7:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Overcast; temp. 42° to 62° to 45°. Wind sharp, W, 2-5 mph; ground damp. Three observers in one party. Total hours 10 (9 on foot, 1 in car). Total species 51; total individuals about 1000. Mrs. Jack Button, Edmund R. Cuthbert, Jr. (compiler), Mrs. Edmund R. Cuthbert. This is the first census reported from Summerville.

	Charleston, S. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Aurora, N. C.	Greenville, N. C.	Summerville, S. C.	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Eastover, S. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	Chapel Hill, N. C.	Aiken, S. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	High Point, N. C.	Spartanburg, S. C.	Greenville, S. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Clemson, S. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Lenoir, N. C.	Linville, N. C.	Todd, N. C.	Windom, N. C.	Smoky Mt. Na. Park
Common Loon.....	1	36	7																						
Red-throated Loon.....	3	4																							
Horned Grebe.....	16	9																							
Pied-billed Grebe.....	15	43	36			2	3	4	7	6	4		5	21	1	25	1		4						
Gannet.....	4	10																							
P.-c. Cormorant.....	10	22																							
Great Blue Heron.....	12	17			3			1		2	1			4	1	2		3							1
Common Egret.....	6	12																							
Snowy Egret.....	1	11																							
Tricolored Heron.....	17	21																							
Little Blue Heron.....	1	9																							
Black-crowned Night Heron	2	3																							
Canada Goose.....		53	22	15						26	32			57	13	9		370	200						
Mallard.....	19	8					6	8						2				157	177	45					
Black Duck.....	59	23					8	2	2	6	9			2	2			25	39	30					
Gadwall.....	104	4								23	11		2	11											
American Widgeon.....	90	268												5				1		7					
Pintail.....	7	2									3														
Green-winged Teal.....	26	76												6		5			9						
Blue-winged Teal.....	36	2								2				1											
Shoveller.....	54	2																							
Wood Duck.....	3	5		2					2											13					
Redhead.....	12							2								1				1					
Ring-necked Duck.....	43	106						7		152	123		1	58	181	6	37	8	5						
Canvas-back.....	35	7						2		10	1			20	11		2	20		2					
Scamp Duck (Sp.).....	21	60	55										4	1											
Common Golden-eye.....		3	2											3		1									
Buffle-head.....	15	89							2	2	3				12		2								
Ruddy Duck.....	8								2	7				7						4					
Hooded Merganser.....	10	18					4	3		2	7														
Red-breasted Merganser...	62	283				1								1	25		3								
Turkey Vulture.....	12	4	5		7	3	3		5	1	14	8	1	49	2	2	3		5	3					
Black Vulture.....	27	5	14		9	16	22	5	42		6		12	4	2		40	1	4						
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	1	2											1	2		2	1			1					
Cooper's Hawk.....		2			2	1	1							2											2
Red-tailed Hawk.....	3	4	1		2	1	1	3	3	1	3	1	1	5		3	1	1	2						3

	Charleston, S. C.	Wilmington, N. C.	Aurora, N. C.	Greenville, N. C.	Summerville, S. C.	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Henderson, N. C.	Eastover, S. C.	Columbia, S. C.	Raleigh, N. C.	Chapel Hill, N. C.	Aiken, S. C.	Charlotte, N. C.	Greensboro, N. C.	High Point, N. C.	Spartanburg, S. C.	Greenville, S. C.	Winston-Salem, N. C.	Clemson, S. C.	Elkin, N. C.	Lenoir, N. C.	Linville, N. C.	Todd, N. C.	Windsor, N. C.	Smoky Mt. Nat. Park
Red-shouldered Hawk.....	6	7	1	..	1	5	1	1	..	..	2	1	..	7	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..
Bald Eagle.....	13	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marsh Hawk.....	7	4	..	..	..	8	..	4	7	..	1	..	..	1	..	2	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Peregrine Falcon.....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sparrow Hawk.....	11	12	3	2	..	5	1	7	3	2	3	7	..	6	2	7	4	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Ruffed Grouse.....	..	..	6	15	1	..	14	8	13	12	9	..	..	27	8	..	16	14	15	24	7	..	..	1	20
Bob-white.....	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	8	21
Turkey.....	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Clapper Rail.....	5	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Gallinule.....	3	2	..	..	..	..	11	1	26	12	40	..	..	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Am. Coot.....	154	317	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Am. Oyster-catcher.....	155	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ringed Plover.....	32	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	137	2	33	2	93	..	6	..	3	..	..	..	..	16
Killdeer.....	29	29	4	19	1	82	1	29	34	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Black-bellied Plover.....	21	46	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ruddy Turnstone.....	50	2	2	..	..	..	2	..	4	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Common Snipe.....	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Willet.....	1	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greater Yellow-legs.....	19	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lesser Yellow-legs.....	6	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Least Sandpiper.....	8	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dowlin.....	23	128	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Semipalmated Sandpiper.....	6	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sanderling.....	13	33	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Herring Gull.....	39	655	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ring-billed Gull.....	32	562	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Bonaparte's Gull.....	..	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Tern.....	3	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Royal Tern.....	4	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Caspian Tern.....	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Black Skimmer.....	5	204	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mourning Dove.....	60	141	16	10	..	4	55	96	7	..	13	2	20	201	28	536	6	111	52	50	22	..	3	25	115
Ground Dove.....	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Screech Owl.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Horned Owl.....	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

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Baired Owl.....	11	33	1	..	2	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Belted Kingfisher.....	12	51	4	..	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	25	7	72	19	7	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	10
Yellow-shafted Flicker...	15	4	..	..	23	3	12	15	41	9	12	..	..	..	..	24	4	12	1	4	..	..	..	..	15
Pileated Woodpecker.....	6	18	1	1	6	1	2	5	7	..	12	7	2	25	1	2	1	4	3	1	..	..	..	..	14
Red-bellied Woodpecker...	..	1	..	2	..	1	1	3	8	4	8	1	1	8	..	5	..	1	1	3	1	..	..	..	..
Red-headed Woodpecker...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker...	7	8	..	1	10	3	4	5	..	2	5	2	2	26	3	5	2	3	..	8	..	..	2	..	1
Hairy Woodpecker.....	9	6	..	2	2	1	1	1	6	..	4	2	2	8	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	5	..	14
Downy Woodpecker.....	21	..	..	2	1	1	10	3	3	9	20	3	4	55	3	8	3	7	3	3	2	..	2	2	34
Eastern Phoebe.....	19	11	3	3	4	6	3	10	13	..	5	4	4	14	2	..	2	1	4	8	1	..	4	..	11
Horned Lark.....	..	..	..	..	..	200+	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	100	..	..	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Tree Swallow.....	6	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blue Jay.....	3	83	4	8	20	14	10	21	56	22	16	14	20	65	13	74	8	14	32	3	3	..	3	8	29
Common Raven.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Am. Crow.....	64	73	14	17	..	94	42	37	51	23	42	12	33	175	34	165	9	25	62	1000+	1	1	13	102	176
Fish Crow.....	17	155	3	..	7	..	..	..	..	22	75	..	15	286	36	42	10	26	56	13	6	10	23	14	256
Chickadee (Sp.).....	8	68	5	..	5	6	21	5	31	22	16	3	8	123	21	4	6	24	11	5	6	6	10	11	15
Tufted Titmouse.....	2	71	..	5	4	8	21	4	39	10	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
White-breasted Nuthatch...	..	4	..	2	5	..	1	..	..	4	13	2	2	55	7	..	..	10	1	6	1	2	..	..	2
Red-breasted Nuthatch...	..	13	..	..	..	..	3	..	7	21	17	16	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	..	..	19
Brown-headed Nuthatch...	5	96	3	..	5	2	..	2	7	..	..	..	4	22	12	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brown Creeper.....	2	5	1	..	1	..	4	1	3	6	9	3	1	16	4	7	..	2	..	5	..	..	..	..	13
House Wren.....	12	15	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	2	..	5
Winter Wren.....	3	13	..	..	8	..	..	..	5	2	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bewick's Wren.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Carolina Wren.....	23	48	1	8	13	13	18	8	36	33	14	4	11	86	27	58	4	16	3	6	8	1	8	12	46
Marsh Wren.....	3	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sedge Wren.....	8	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mockingbird.....	17	54	4	11	10	29	23	11	24	12	22	17	16	89	38	38	8	20	1	4	4	..	..	1	15
Catbird.....	6	8	2	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Brown Thrasher.....	3	10	..	5	15	..	..	3	9	6	8	2	1	5	..	4	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Am. Robin.....	3	1000	2	39	38	868	3	36	57	19	108	40	10	2343	106	134	6	552	462	*	4	8	10	1	28
Hermit Thrush.....	16	18	6	2	8	2	4	9	14	1	12	5	1	19	4	15	3	5	1	4	1	..	..	..	20
Common Bluebird.....	12	68	13	12	12	37	63	39	96	45	25	7	12	157	46	69	14	40	5	20	6	..	9	8	28
Golden-crowned Kinglet...	8	49	..	2	..	..	18	2	54	12	10	5	..	52	8	22	5	16	..	4	1	..	..	3	83
Ruby-crowned Kinglet....	29	58	..	1	12	4	4	14	41	18	10	15	7	13	2	20	4	5	2	1	4	..	..	..	2

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Water Pipit.....	30	153	78	16	58	44	..	10	43	35	5	103	30	99	21	50	8	36	6	35	..	..	..	..	8
Cedar Waxing.....	158	830	65	65	17	20	14	15	168	29	36	87	87	5	7	18	8	36	6	48	6	..	..	..	3
Loggerhead Shrike.....	7	22	3	17	1	1	1	5	2	2	2	5	1	17	7	5	6	11	1	1	..	..	..	..	3
Common Starling.....	8	145	9	22	..	120	108	147	113	230	78	303	52	5800	42	2000	46	650	23	57	4	..	20	45	29
Solitary Vireo.....	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Orange-crowned Warbler...	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Myrtle Warbler.....	225	590	25	13	41	13	34	1	28	6	35	7	3	57	3	31	13	4	24	2	3	..	..	..	..
Yellow-throated Warbler...	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pine Warbler.....	38	28	..	2	2	6	6	25	48	5	7	32	2	63	2	28	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Palm Warbler.....	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yellow-throat.....	8	6	..	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
House Sparrow.....	6	85	5	60	..	127	118	200	141	26	78	44	10	231	51	60	10	65	18	1	12	..	24	118	140
Common Meadowlark.....	15	18	36	13	4	251	17	72	122	92	100	52	4	208	47	95	140	56	2	35	1	..	..	..	40
Red-winged Blackbird.....	193	1000	750	55	129	..	700	50	242	..	17	204	..	223	14	130	8	..	32	..	..	..	..	..	2
Rusty Blackbird.....	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	120	..	4	..	..	27	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Boat-tailed Grackle.....	20	36	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	..	..	..	..	200	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Grackle.....	3	18	6	6	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	404	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Cowbird.....	1	50	935	7	..	25	100	55	311	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cardinal.....	48	99	2	10	21	13	38	47	117	14	69	32	50	229	24	74	4	70	3	13	11	..	20	31	102
Purple Finch.....	..	15	..	..	1	2	35	9	14	2	47	6	11	98	4	24	..	87	21	4	..	..	..	..	54
Pine Siskin.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	11	2	20	15	..	35	110	..	..	..	..	2	2	93	..	..	..	625
Am. Goldfinch.....	58	87	..	15	17	15	163	29	79	29	50	7	25	279	53	115	142	67	15	16	6	..	3	82	205
Eastern Towhee.....	26	139	6	5	27	7	40	5	92	21	43	19	3	106	10	23	5	18	6	5	4	1	34	12	20
Savannah Sparrow.....	13	179	15	26	15	20	6	20	19	5	..	17	..	15	2	..	..	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	..
Sharp-tailed Sparrow.....	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Seaside Sparrow.....	6	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vesper Sparrow.....	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	10	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bachman's Sparrow.....	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Slate-colored Junco.....	18	500	..	68	102	172	450	46	193	737	202	60	120	1850	171	185	45	325	217	100+	22	36	122	45	500
Chipping Sparrow.....	200+	42	..	..	7	8	..	55	267	..	..	..	6	28	..	13	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Field Sparrow.....	12	109	6	39	25	5	173	18	121	25	15	70	70	267	23	112	52	83	14	26	2	11	9	109	200
White-crowned Sparrow...	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	3	100+	..	..	..	..	..	4
White-throated Sparrow...	225	500	..	84	232	30	135	150	293	156	147	70	30	711	80	134	52	133	78	200+	36	..	..	3	170
Fox Sparrow.....	2	98	..	..	2	..	9	11	8	6	7	1	2	13	..	..	..	1	..	5	..	..	..	9	2
Swamp Sparrow.....	200+	104	..	..	17	..	5	..	21	3	25	..	1	173	2	3	..	..	42	2	..	..	..	..	2
Song Sparrow.....	24	106	11	15	19	31	276	14	39	55	40	5	25	274	21	90	47	62	17	32	3	2	30	73	127



## BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, Department Editor

As spring migration is just ahead of us, let us think a moment about this business of keeping records of the birds seen in our yards. If you are seriously interested in bird study, I know you need no urging to take notes. But those of us who began this hobby "just for fun" may someday find ourselves deeply regretting that we failed to jot down just what we saw and when and where. I know this only too well, for I remember two instances when I saw a bird that I couldn't identify and I didn't bother to write down a description or the date. Now I would be delighted to have those records, but have no accurate dates, so they are useless. I have found that the easiest method of keeping records is the use of a daily journal, with that information later condensed on cards in an index file.

Mr. J. W. E. Joyner, Rocky Mount, N. C., suggests that we can add much interest to our backyard birding by conducting some simple observation surveys. If we will take notes on all we see, and list the dates of recurring events, the accumulated data will make interesting studies as the seasons roll by. Seasonal check-lists can be worked out for the various sections of our states. Facts can be gathered on the roosting sites of our smaller song birds, the materials used in nest-building, unusual habits or deviations from the regular behavior patterns, courtship displays, predation, and song interpretations.

On November 8, Mrs. Francis Barrington watched an American

Woodcock near her birdbath in her yard in Charleston. She wrote that the bird stayed for two and a half hours or longer, probing and resting, and probing again. While at rest, its protective coloration made it all but invisible.

I would appreciate some dates on the peak of the warbler migration in various sections of the Carolinas. Please note carefully the day or weekend that you see the most warblers in your yard. Last year, the first weekend in May was the most exciting time with us. There seemed to be two or three birds in every bush!—A. R. F.

*Song of the Summer Tanager.*—Summer Tanagers will be returning to the Carolinas within a few weeks now and announcing their arrival with the familiar *pit-ch-kuh*, and *pit-ch-kuh, kuh*. These call notes are doubtless pure Pirangese for query, surprise, admonition, indignation, threat, or alarm, depending upon the immediate need. Certainly they cover a considerable range of conversation. They are hard to forget.

The song of the Summer Tanager will be as easily remembered as the call notes if we once give it due attention. It is really a very simple song. There are 5 different syllable groups, uttered in deliberate bursts, and repeated over and over with only a brief pause and practically no variation. First there are 2 closely-coupled syllables, then 2 more, then 4, and 2, and 1. Word associations are usually poor but they do serve as memory aids. Here

they are as I hear them on Critter Hill: *ker-chief, block-head, bring-it-up-here, stup-id, here; ker-chief, block-head*, and on and on. And that is all there is to it. Unlike the song of the Hermit Thrush, the order seldom changes. In the early hours of the day when there is little to distract the singer, I have heard the song repeated 147 times with scarcely a pause. Sometimes the series is incomplete but almost always it starts with *ker-chief*. The few exceptions that I have heard to this have come at daybreak during the tuning-up stage. The "words" are uttered at approximately one-second intervals.

Last summer I clocked the call of a Summer Tanager fledgling. The bird had left its nest and spent a night and the greater part of 2 days on the same limb of a small cedar within 20 feet of my window. It was fed frequently by the mother but that operation only served temporarily to interrupt a loud and harsh two-syllabled *chur-lee*, repeated again and again at a fairly constant rate of 24 to 27 calls per minute.

Listen for the Summer Tanager's song this spring and add it to your life-list of songs. For a learned discussion of the song of the Hermit Thrush, a somewhat similar air, read Ann Hinshaw Wing's article in the April 1951 *Auk*.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C., Jan. 3, 1953.*

One Saturday afternoon this past fall, as I was walking home from a friend's house, I saw this funny thing on the sidewalk that looked like a statue of a bird. I went over to it and picked it up, and found that it was alive. I took it home, and since it seemed to be sick and didn't move much, I left it on the back porch, where it stood quietly on one foot. Sunday, I put the bird in a big box. I put evergreens in the bottom of the box, then added a dish of water and some bread crumbs and wild bird seed. I cut windows in the sides of the box, and put a small branch in one window to make it look more like home for the bird.

The next morning the bird acted about the same. Later on in the day I put the bird out in the yard. It

went right for a hiding place, and stayed there. I decided it might be thirsty, so I took it over to our bird-bath and put it in the water. The bird wouldn't drink if I stood close by, but if I moved away, it would drink a little.

I took care of the bird like this for about four days, and then it began to get frisky. I had to be careful, because when I took it out to the birdbath, it would jump off and run as fast as it could over to the next yard. One day I had the bird out walking, and I looked the other way, and when I looked back it was gone! I called my mother and we looked all over our yard and the next yard, under all the bushes and flowers. Finally we found it hiding under some shrubbery, and we were very thankful. The next day, we called Mrs. Sisson to come see our bird. She suggested that we take it to Mrs. Faver in Eastover. There we all studied the pictures in the bird books and decided that it was a Sora Rail. Since Rails like to be around water, we took this one through the woods to the pond behind Mrs. Faver's home and turned it loose. It seemed well and strong now, and went running off into the tall reeds and grasses at the edge of the water. It didn't fly at all, but it surely could run. It seemed to go a mile a minute!—ANDREA STOCKS, *age 11 yrs., Columbia, S. C.*

Do a significant number of Common Bluebirds die each year in tobacco barns? We have 5 tobacco barns on our farm 3 miles north of Kenansville, a small town in southeastern North Carolina. In mid-June, 1951, I found between 20 and 25 Bluebirds in each of two barns (the other three were not examined). The birds were well-dried and equally distributed among the four burners in each barn. In June of 1952 I found only four dead Bluebirds in each of the same two barns. On January 17, 1953, there was but one dead Bluebird to be found. It would seem that these birds entered the flues during late winter or spring. When it is considered that there are thousands of such barns in North Carolina alone, the matter seems worth further investigation.—GUY V. GOODING, JR., *Kenansville, N. C., Jan. 22, 1953.*



## GENERAL FIELD NOTES

*Advisory Council:* E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

*Department Editor:* B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

Following the usual erratic pattern of irruptions, we have heard nothing this year of the Evening Grosbeaks that were so plentiful the previous winter. We have, however, many reports of great concentrations of Robins in both Carolinas. We want to know more about this, so please send us all of the information you can on Robins in your area. Give estimates of their number, what they are eating, and particularly, where their roosts are located, or where you suspect they are located.—B. R. C.

**Food Notes on the Pied-billed Grebe.**—On August 12, 1952 a local man noted a strange water bird on his goldfish pond and was sure the “duck” was feeding on his valuable goldfish. Under this illusion he secured the faithful shotgun and proceeded to shoot the culprit, later bringing the skin and stomach contents to the State Museum. The bird proved to be a Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), and the stomach contents were sent to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for analysis. The report from their laboratory stated that the items present were the remains of many wolf spiders, those of the giant water bug in several stages, miscellaneous insects, and the long bones of a medium-sized frog.—F. B. MEACHAM, N. C. State Museum, Raleigh, N. C.

**Swans and Geese at Santee Refuge, S. C.**—Robert J. Lemaire, Assistant Refuge Manager at Santee National Wildlife Refuge, near Summerton, S. C., writes under dates of Nov. 17, and Dec. 16, 1952 that 2 Whistling Swans wintered at the refuge and he had observed them on Pinopolis Pool between Dec. 3, 1951 and Feb. 20, 1952. On Nov. 28, 1952 a single mature swan arrived at the same pool, and on Dec. 5, 1952, 3 immature Whistling Swans came into the sanctuary at nearby Jordan, S. C. All 4 of these swans were still present at the time of his second letter. He also noted the presence of 1 mature Blue Goose regularly between Dec. 14 and 28, 1950 at the Bluff Land section of the Refuge. No Blues were seen on the Refuge during the winter of 1951-52, but 4 immature Blue Geese came to Pinopolis Pool, Oct. 24, 1952. These geese were also present at the time of writing.

Mr. Lemaire joined C. B. C. last year. He received his master's degree in wildlife management at Louisiana State University in 1950, and has been located at the Santee Refuge since that time.—(Dept. Ed.).



**A Million Wildfowl.**—As familiar as many of us in the Carolinas are with ducks and geese, the following quotation will be of interest. It comes from Alexander (Sandy) Sprunt, 4th., now Assistant Pacific Coast Representative of the National Audubon Society, based in the branch office at San Francisco, and is part of a recent letter to the writer describing the 1952 Christmas Census in the Sacramento Valley:

"This may sound like a lie *but* we saw over a *million* ducks, geese and swans. I never believed it was possible to get anything like the concentrations we saw there. On the Sacramento Refuge alone, our most conservative estimate was 593,000 ducks!!—Even you have never seen anything like it. They had to take off in flights because they couldn't all get off at the same time, or so it seemed. One flight would go up and you would think that all the ducks in the country were in it, then another just as big would come out of the grass, then another and another and so on. I was simply floored. And this was *just* ducks. In addition, there were 80,000 Snow Geese plus about 30,000 White-fronts and Cackling. In among these were quite a few Ross' Geese.

"At the Grey Lodge Refuge, a few miles off, the same thing was repeated. I really never thought that many ducks existed, at least not at the same place at the same time. Most of them were Pintails, with Mallards and Baldpates coming next. It was simply overwhelming."

Sandy is quite right in saying that "even you" have never seen anything like this. The nearest the writer can come to it was his experience in 1934, at the mouth of the Mississippi, now the Delta Refuge, when he and John Baker, President of the National Audubon Society, computed the number of Blue Geese in sight at once to be 750,000.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Charleston, S. C., Jan. 2, 1953.*

**Franklin's Gull in North Carolina.**—On Oct. 13, 1952, a young gull was wounded by gun shot at the Catawba River, within 12 miles of Charlotte, N. C., and taken to the Children's Nature Museum in that city. The writer saw it on that date and assumed that it was a Bonaparte's Gull, a common species on the coast and an occasional wanderer into the interior. Closer examination revealed several characters that appeared to fit the juvenal plumage and bill structure of Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*), and photographs were submitted to Allen Duvall at the National Museum for identification. Mr. Duvall replied to the effect that it probably was Franklin's Gull but that he would prefer to see the bird. On Dec. 16 it died and upon examining the skin he stated that it was Franklin's Gull. It was a female but the ovaries were minute and difficult to find. A shot gun pellet had broken the left humerus.

*Franklin's Gull, immature female.*

*Photographed by Norman Chamberlain  
at Charlotte, North Carolina  
on October 16, 1952.*

March, 1953



Franklin's Gull, the Prairie Dove of the West, is seldom found in southeastern United States. A brief summary of the distribution data kindly furnished by Chandler Robbins shows that one was collected at Blacksburg, Va., Oct. 24, 1898 (*Auk* 29:510), and another near Philadelphia, Penn., Oct. 22, 1911 (*Auk* 29:69). There is a sight record for St. Petersburg, Fla., Feb. 28, 1918 (*Auk* 37:395), and a bird banded at Delta, Manitoba, was recovered at Lake Port, Fla., about Dec. 4, 1938 (*Auk* 58:405). In the northeast, in Massachusetts, New York, and neighboring areas in Canada, 8 specimens have been taken and 33 sight records reported during the past 88 years. Of the 5 specimens for which sex is shown (including the present bird), all are females.

In the accompanying photograph (taken by Norman Chamberlain on Oct. 16, 1952) the bird was posed to show distinguishing field characters: a relatively thick bill; a black crescentic mark before the eye; white eyelids; white primary tips; and white outer tail feathers. The broken wing tips show the result of cage wear at the museum; they were intact when the bird was brought in.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C.*

**Hawks and Butterflies.**—At the 1952 fall meeting of C. B. C., on the Blue Ridge Parkway in N. C., a count of migrating hawks was featured. Several reports were made of the hawks catching and eating insects in mid-air, and since there was a definite flight of Monarch Butterflies present, it was assumed by many of the membership that that species was being eaten. In view of this, the following excerpt from a letter from John R. Dapper, Pickens, S. C., who attended the meeting, reminds us of forgotten lore:

"Douglas Wade and I . . . kept watch on our way down the Parkway towards Asheville, homeward bound Sunday the 28th (Sept.), and sighted a few hawks on the way. At Black Mountain Overlook we sighted a large part of the Monarch Butterfly migration and counted them at 20-25 per minute for several minutes. Yesterday something came up here which reminded me that Monarch Butterflies are very distasteful to birds; hence it is extremely unlikely that whatever small prey the Broadwings, etc. were feeding upon in flight were individuals of the Monarch migration. It is likely that this has occurred to others since the . . . meeting."—(*Dept. Ed.*).

**Sutton's Warbler and Sight Records.**—During the past two years *The Chat* has received three reports of observations of Sutton's Warbler (*Dendroica potomac*) in the Carolinas. At Asheville, N. C., Miss Caroline B. Robinson described 1 or more birds appearing at her feeding station during the summer of 1951, that matched the field guide plates. At Wilmington, N. C., Cecil Appleberry watched a bird on Aug. 25, 1951, that agreed with the descriptions and plates. He was unable to see the bird's back. On Aug. 16, 1952, Robert and Frances Edwards had a bird under observation at McClellanville, S. C. that they feel must have been Sutton's Warbler. These observations have not previously been mentioned in General Field Notes.

Our position is this: Sutton's Warbler is known only from 2 specimens taken 14 years ago. Eggs have never been found, and there is some doubt that it is, or was, a fixed species. The characters that separate it from the Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) are probably more apparent in the color plates than in the birds themselves. At our request Allen Duvall has examined the series of skins of *D. dominica* at the National Museum. Regarding the side streaking he concludes "that in the summer and early fall some of the immature birds, particularly immature females, of the Yellow-throated Warbler would look much like Sutton's Warbler, based upon the colored plates in the original description of this (bird)." Mr. Duvall directs attention to the statement in the original description of Sutton's Warbler, that the post-auricular region is very faintly white (light grayish). The suffused greenish back would be a good field character, but he believes it would be seldom seen. All of this strengthens our thought that even a specimen in the hand might not be readily recognized.

It is not our intention to discourage the reporting of birds as they are seen. It is a mark of superior field work to look for all of the separating

characters, and it would be well indeed if we subjected all birds we see to the same scrutiny currently being focused upon our yellow-throated warblers. We want the reports; their number will help determine their value—*Dept. Ed.*

**Finding Chat Nests.**—The Yellow-breasted Chat, largest of the warblers, and one of the most comical birds extant, breeds abundantly in South Carolina, according to the bird books. Yet the finding of a Chat nest, at least in the Lowcountry, is an event.

Despite the fact that the observer never lacks for the sight of a Chat if he looks in the right locale, records of its nest and eggs are scant. The Charleston Museum has but one set of Chat eggs in its voluminous collection, and Arthur Wayne, during all his life on the coast, found but 2 Chat nests—his first in May 1879, and his second in May 1906, 27 years apart!

At my home on Edgewater Park, near Charleston, 6 or 8 pairs of Chats nest each spring. But until May 1952, I had never had the good fortune to find a nest and eggs.

This past spring I was determined to discover the nest and was prepared to sacrifice considerable time in so doing. Actually I spent a total of 16 hours watching Chats in a tangle of vines and briars covering an area of about 2 acres only a short distance from my home.

The first day of my campaign I noticed a Chat in a pine tree on the edge of this briary area. I hid in the bushes and watched the antics of the bird for 4 hours. He cavorted, sang, whistled, grunted, acted, and occasionally dropped to the ground and disappeared, only to fly back to his perch from a different direction. He gave no hint of the spot picked as a nesting site.

Early the next day I began my vigil again, and after 3 hours of watching a Chat I detected a slight rustle in the bushes about 20 feet from where I stood. I concentrated on this spot and finally succeeded in catching a fleeting glimpse of the bird flitting about near the ground. Every now and then a bush shook just a little, and it was always the same bush. I entered the thicket only about 5 feet; the shaking bush was not in the center of the briars and vines as I would have suspected, but near the edge and easily accessible.

There I found my first Chat nest, but still in the building stage.

After 3 days, on May 12, I returned to the nest and found it contained 1 egg. On May 14 there were 3 eggs and the following day the nest held 4 eggs, a normal complement. On each visit to the nest I approached from a different direction and watched for an hour, but I was never able to see the bird on the nest.

Elated over finding my first Chat nest, I decided to see if I couldn't beat the odds and find two Chat nests in one season. With this thought I decided to force my way through the most impenetrable thicket. It took me the better part of a day to smash a path through the tangle from one road to another, a distance of about 200 yards. I found exactly nothing, although several pairs of Chats appeared to be inhabiting the area.

On May 28 I returned to the edge of the briar patch and watched the Chats, two of them, for two hours. I was about to leave when one of the Chats dropped into the bushes between me and the briars about 40 feet away. I waited, but the bird did not reappear, and I began walking toward it. When about 10 feet from the briars the Chats began to scold from the underbrush. I could not see them and knew there was little use to pinpoint their location for they might be yards away from their nest. I turned to go back when there, right at my elbow, was the nest, about 3 feet from the ground in a small myrtle bush. It held 4 eggs.

I was taken completely by surprise, for the nest was easily seen, being a few inches higher than the surrounding growth. But I had been looking so hard at the briar patch and tangled vines, and not suspecting that a Chat would build out in the open, that I had walked right past the nest without seeing it.

I had found 2 Chat nests, with full complements of eggs, within 2 weeks. But better still I found that Chats, at least at Edgewater Park, build their nests on the edge of thickets instead of in the middle of the briars. I expect to find other nests next spring.—ERNEST R. CUTTS, *Charleston, S. C., Dec. 1, 1952.*

**Summer Tanager in Winter in South Carolina.**—On the Christmas Census, taken in the Charleston area Dec. 26, 1952, a Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) was observed on Bull's Island. It was first seen by John Henry Dick and, after his calling attention to it, by the writer and his brother, James Sprunt, who was visiting the former at the time of the census. The bird was in oak trees near the North End, a few yards from the shoreline of Bull's Bay.

This is the first winter record for South Carolina and, apparently, the third for the United States. The two former winter records were established in Florida. In one of these the writer was a participant with Dr. James J. Murray, Lexington, Va. (*Auk* 68:513, 1951).—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Charleston, S. C., Jan. 2, 1953.* [The other Florida observation is recorded in the *Florida Naturalist* 16(3):41, 1943—*Dept. Ed*].

**Last Winter's Evening Grosbeaks.**—In the report of the 1951-1952 flight of Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) into the Carolinas (*Chat* 16: 30-33 and 16:64-65, 1952), the finding at Rocky Mount, N. C., of a bird banded at Ramsey, N. J., in 1950 was recorded. Another banded Evening Grosbeak has been reported. This one, according to the official report from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was "probably found dead" at Creswell, Washington County, N. C., Jan. 24, 1952. This bird was banded at Deerfield, Franklin County, Massachusetts, by Edward Norman on Feb. 27, 1950. The band, bearing number 48-268640, was sent to T. L. Quay by A. H. Tucker, of Creswell School. It is interesting to note that Deerfield Mass., is approximately 150 miles northeast of Ramsey, N. J., and that these communities are reasonably in a line of flight to eastern North Carolina.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C.*

#### Briefs for the Files

**Common Loon**, 1 killed at Boone, N. C., Dec. 1, 1952, Mrs. A. B. Hurt. **Glossy Ibis**, 16 at Dingle Pond, Santee Refuge, Summerton, S. C., Apr. 10, 1952, R. J. Lemaire; 5 to 9 birds observed in Cuddo section of Santee Refuge, first week of Aug. 1952, E. F. Holland. **White Ibis**, 6 (1 immature), Pinopolis Pond, Santee Refuge, Nov. 7, 1952, R. J. Lemaire. **European Widgeon**, single bird arrived at Wilmington, N. C., Oct. 29, 1952; arrival date for 1951 was Nov. 11, Mrs. Cecil Appleberry. **Redhead**, 1 male, Salem Lake, Winston-Salem, N. C., Nov. 30, 1952, T. W. Simpson. **Broad-winged Hawk**, 1 at Winston-Salem, N. C., Nov. 29, 1952, T. W. Simpson; 1 near Columbia, S. C., May 17, 1952, David Monteith; 1 at Wilmington, N. C., Nov. 9, 1952, Mrs. W. C. Mebane. **Sora Rail**, 1 in captivity at Windom, N. C., throughout the month of Nov. 1952, James Hutchins; 1 injured bird caught, cared for, and released at Columbia, S. C., Oct. 11, 1952, Mrs. Clyde Sisson and Andrea Stocks. **Common Snipe**, 1 at Rocky Mount, N. C., Aug. 17, 1952, J. W. E. Joyner. **Black Tern**, 8 at new Bugg's Island Dam near Henderson, N. C., Sept. 6, 1952, Mrs. A. W. Bachman and party. **Short-eared Owl**, 2 birds watched while perched on earth clods in open field near Eastover, S. C., Dec. 23, 1952, Mrs. W. H. Faver and Mrs. Clyde Sisson; 1 collected at Matthews, N. C., during Nov. 1951, Charles Plexico. **Saw-whet Owl**, 1 at Greenville, S. C., Nov. 12, 1952, J. B. Shuler, Jr. **Winter Wren**, 1 at Aynor, S. C. Nov. 19, 1952, Mrs. G. E. Charles. **Nashville Warbler**, 1 at Charlotte, N. C., Oct. 5, 6, 7, 1952, Mrs. E. O. Clarkson. **Yellow-throat**, 1 female at Zimmerman's Pond, Spartanburg, S. C., Dec. 13, 14, 21, 1952, and Jan. 1, 1953, Cannon, Carlisle, Correll and Crick. **Yellow-breasted Chat**, 1 at Eastover, S. C., Oct. 10, 1952, Mrs. W. H. Faver. **White-crowned Sparrow**, more than ever previously reported in N. C. and S. C.; notes in preparation.—*Dept. Editor.*



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# EDITORIAL

News, Reviews, Announcements  
Authors, Members, Letters  
Items of Interest

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The publication of the White-throated Sparrow cover plate has been made possible by the kind generosity of Mrs. Thomas W. Simpson, of Winston-Salem. Mrs. Simpson is one of our best ornithologists, and is especially interested in warblers and sparrows.

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It is gratifying to note the growing number of localities participating in the annual Christmas Census. Examination of the contents of the General Field Notes department this time, also, reveals that dividends are being realized from the steady accumulation of information in Mr. Chamberlain's files. GFN will become increasingly valuable as more members get in the habit of sending in reports regularly.

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The annual meeting at Columbia on March 21 bids fair to be the best yet. The many papers and reports to be given on birds and birding will provide the kind of spark and amalgam needed to keep our Club strong, growing, and purposeful. The illustrated after-dinner talk by Bill Baldwin on "Government Wildlife Refuges in the Carolinas" will be a special treat. Mr. Baldwin is Regional Biologist for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and lives at Bluffton, S. C.

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All material for the June *Chat* should be sent to the new editors: Mrs. Clyde Sisson (editor), 1430 Wellington Drive, Columbia 4, S. C., or Mrs. William Faver (co-editor), Eastover, S. C. General Field Notes items should go directly to B. R. Chamberlain at Matthews, N. C., and any member of the editorial board will be glad to receive and forward contributions.

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We have deeply appreciated and enjoyed the privilege of editing *The Chat* for the past two years. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all, and bespeak for the new editors the same willing cooperation and help you have given to us.—TOM AND VIOLET QUAY.

## New and Re-instated Members, Oct. 26, 1952—Jan. 22, 1953

- Adams, Hal B., Box 803, Lenoir, N. C.  
 Allen, Billy, 701 E. Beach St., Goldsboro, N. C.  
 Aman, Mrs. P. D., Box 1243, Myrtle Beach, S. C.  
 Andrews, Mrs. Isaac, Box 570, Spartanburg, S. C.  
 Apple, Mrs. Roy D., Box 1131, Burlington, N. C.  
 Ashley, Mrs. Charles, Montmorenci, S. C.  
 Baily, Sara Lynn, 1705 Fountain View, Charlotte, N. C.  
 Banta, Mrs. C. G. S., 24 Salem St., Andover, Mass.  
 Ballard, Mrs. T. R., Howell St., High Point, N. C.  
 Ballentine, Mrs. J. W., 318 W. Main St., Easley, S. C.  
 Benton, Mrs. Kime, Hillgirth, N. C.  
 Bidstrup, George, Brasstown, N. C.  
 Blair, Rev. T. W., 131 W. Council St., Salisbury, N. C.  
 Bobo, Mrs. Harold, 128 Tarleton Ave., Burlington, N. C.  
 Bostic, Miss Helen, 103 S. Main St., Ashboro, N. C.  
 Bowles, Mrs. F. Norman, 1400 Shepherd St., Durham, N. C.  
 Boyd, Mrs. R. B., Warrenton, N. C.  
 Brinton, Mrs. C. H., Glad Acres, Rt. 4, Hendersonville, N. C.  
 Bryan, Mrs. W. C., Box 372, Jacksonville, N. C.  
 Brunson, Mrs. J. W., Knox St., Durham, N. C.  
 Button, Mrs. Jack, Summerville, S. C.  
 Bynum, Miss Sue, Box 425, Scotsboro, Ala.  
 Campbell, Mrs. John T., Box 449, Washington, N. C.  
 Campbell, Mrs. R. S., Cowpens, S. C.  
 Carlisle, Miss Louisa, 151 N. Fairview Ave., Spartanburg, S. C.  
 Carr, Miss Clara, La Grange, N. C.  
 Carroll, Mrs. Edwin P., 188 Tradd St., Charleston, S. C.  
 Cely, Mrs. T. W., Rt. 1, Easley, S. C.  
 Chalfant, Mr. and Mrs. J. W., 3135 Sussex Rd., Raleigh, N. C.  
 Clement, J. Latta, Nik Nar, Biltmore, N. C.  
 Coble, Mrs. Herman, Montlieu Ave., High Point, N. C.  
 Comeau, Clifford, Bolivia, N. C.  
 Cox, W. F., Jr., 1086 Hendersonville Road, Asheville, N. C.  
 Craft, Wm. H., 1106 Riverside Ave., Elizabeth City, N. C.  
 Crawford, E. A., Jr., Olympia High School, Columbia, S. C.  
 Crawford, Larry, Jr., 112 N. Mendenhall St., Greensboro, N. C.  
 Crunkleton, Tolliver, Box 494, Highlands, N. C.  
 Dahl, Mrs. Ernest, 1422 Hawthorne Lane, Burlington, N. C.  
 Dawson, Mrs. Horace, Box 567, Tryon, N. C.  
 Denton, Dr. J. Fred, 1510 Pendleton Rd., Augusta, Ga.  
 Dye, Mrs. Wm. Holt, 2530 Canterbury Rd., Columbia, S. C.  
 Estes, Melvin, Jr., 2421 Chesterfield Ave., Washington, N. C.  
 Faris, L. W., Box 683 Greenville, S. C.  
 Ferguson, Wade H., La Grange, N. C.  
 Fitzgerald, Mrs. Gerald, Amsterdam, N. Y.  
 Flowers, Mrs. Claud, 1506 Hermitage Court, Durham, N. C.  
 Fogleman, Mrs. Elizabeth V., Box 103, Alamance, N. C.  
 Forbus, Mrs. Sample, Watts Hospital, Durham, N. C.  
 Free, Miss Belle, 126 B Capers St., Greenville, S. C.  
 Garmzy, Mrs. Norman, 3423 Hope Valley Rd., Durham, N. C.  
 Garrity, Devin A., 682 Forest Ave., Rye, N. Y.  
 Gaskins, Oliver K., Box 406, Troy, N. C.  
 Green, Mrs. E. L., 328 Sims Ave., Columbia, S. C.  
 Green, Edwin L., Jr., 328 Sims Ave., Columbia, S. C.  
 Gregory, Dr. W. C., Route 1, Cary, N. C.  
 Guest, Mrs. James E., Rt. 2, Marietta, S. C.  
 Guest, Mary Ellen, Rt. 2, Marietta, S. C.  
 Hainer, Mrs. Margaret C., Kanuga Rd., Hendersonville, N. C.  
 Harris, Mrs. Hugh, Box 686, Emory University, Ga.  
 Heizer, Mrs. James S., 1515 Lakewood Ave., Durham, N. C.  
 Henderson, Mrs. E. M., 1615 Valley Rd., Columbia, S. C.  
 Hickman, Jackie, 417 Aliso Dr., Albuquerque, New Mexico  
 Hight, Mr. G. L., Jr., 16 Notasulga Rd., Rome, Ga.  
 Hitch, M. David, 918 Cowper Dr., Raleigh, N. C.  
 Horney, Mrs. J. E., 225 Woodrow Ave., High Point, N. C.  
 Houck, Duane, Mt. Pisgah Academy, Candler, N. C.  
 Hudson, J. R., Lowell, N. C.  
 Huntley, Mrs. W. T., 335 N. May St., Southern Pines, N. C.  
 Jackson, Mrs., Edgema Manor, Hendersonville, N. C.  
 Janny, Mrs., Kell Apts., Tryon, N. C.  
 Johnson, Miss Nellie, Tryon, N. C.  
 Johnson, Dr. Walter, Biltmore, N. C.  
 Johnson, Mrs. W. Jedd, 401 E. Blvd., Charlotte, N. C.  
 Jones, Miss Thelma, 200 Pineview Rd., Asheville, N. C.  
 Kissam, Edward Bernard, 1430 Horace Mann Ave., Winston-Salem, N. C.  
 Kivett, Miss Gladis, Kivett Dr., High Point, N. C.  
 Lambert, Mrs. F. M., 306 Woodbrook, High Point, N. C.  
 Lemly, Mrs. Conrad B., 1025 Van Hoy St., Winston-Salem, N. C.  
 Lemon, Betty, Box 546, Sullivans Island, S. C.  
 Lilien, Mrs. B. R., 514 Country Club Dr., Burlington, N. C.  
 Lillard, Mrs. Mason, 105 Gwyn Ave., Elkin, N. C.  
 Lord, Miss M., Tryon, N. C.  
 McClellan, Miss Fannie, Brasstown, N. C.  
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#### Affiliated Club Member

Darlington Bird Club, Darlington, S. C.

### The Midwinter Field Trip To Savannah

A joint field trip of the Georgia Ornithological Society and the Carolina Bird Club was held at Savannah, Georgia on January 17, 1953. Trips were made to Tybee Beach and to the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, which is half in Georgia and half in South Carolina and 13,000 acres in all. Seventy-nine species were seen in Georgia (including the beach area) and 73 species in South Carolina. In all, 99 species were tabulated. Flocks of Black Skimmers and Oyster-catchers along the beach, concentrations of Pintails, Shovellers, Gadwalls and other ducks, and numerous Red-tailed, Sparrow and other hawks, highlighted the trip.

Headquarters for the meeting were at the General Oglethorpe Hotel, 8 miles from the city toward the beach, which proved an ideal arrangement. The 53 persons who registered for the meeting (29 from Georgia and 24 from the Carolinas) were joined by a dozen others who participated in the field trips. Fred Sample of Columbia and Herman Coolidge of Savannah were in charge of the meeting. The latter presided at the supper bird count at the hotel. Frank Meacham played a few of the new plastic Cornell bird-song recordings. Norman Chamberlain exhibited some excellent slides of the first Franklin's Gull recorded in North Carolina (see General Field Notes in this issue), and of Gannets he saw on Bonaventure Island this past summer. A Coronet sound film, "Birds of the Woodlands," was shown by Robert Overing. Harold Peters, President of the Georgia Ornithological Society, spoke briefly.

A Camellia Show in downtown Savannah was an added attraction for many.—ROBERT OVERING.

*Spring Field Trip*—The annual spring field trip will be held at Brasstown, N. C., on April 25, 1953. Lucille Gault will be in charge, and excellent plans are already well along. In addition to birds, there will be folk dancing, craft exhibits, and Danish Smorgasbord! Details will be announced later by *Newsletter*.—ROBERT OVERING.



*Founded March 6, 1937*

*Incorporated August 8, 1949*

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (4) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and the out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular .....	\$1.00	Contributing .....	\$25.00
Supporting .....	\$5.00	Affiliated Club .....	\$2.00

Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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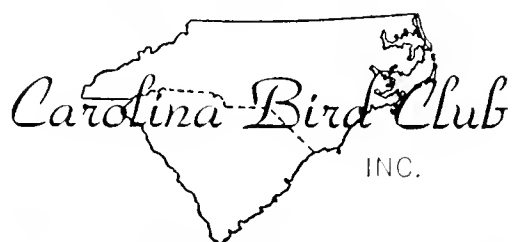
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# THE CHAT

*Bulletin of*



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JUNE, 1953

Number 2



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Cover Photograph.—Female Bob-white on her nest, photographed by Jack Dermid, Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh, N. C.

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## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Spring has come once more, and though there was not much winter in a large portion of the Carolinas, the appearance of spring foliage and the arrival of the northward-bound birds are as welcome as ever. THE CHAT begins with this issue under the editorship of Mrs. Clyde Sisson and Mrs. William H. Faver, of Columbia and Eastover, South Carolina, respectively. Their tasks will be lighter if manuscripts for publication are submitted on letter size paper, one side only, double-spaced, briefly summarized at the end.

Also, our new Treasurer, Edwin Winkler, 509 Gardner St., Raleigh, North Carolina, who was elected at the Columbia meeting, has begun his new duties. He is an indefatigable member of the Raleigh Bird Club, and has been editing a newsletter for that organization with marked success. He will welcome dues from old members and from new members, and will especially be glad to receive new \$5.00 memberships. It is the increasing number of supporting memberships that allows the Carolina Bird Club to grow and to furnish the members a magazine of the caliber of THE CHAT at nominal cost.

During the past several years I have received literally hundreds of personal notes from CBC members, along with remittances of dues and strictly business letters pertaining to the Carolina Bird Club. I want to take this opportunity of expressing to all the correspondents my sincere appreciation for such notes. Many of the writers express opinions on some phase of National or State conservation problems, or of activities of our Club, or of wildlife in general; but most, I think, mention some particular incident involving an interesting observation of a particular bird or group of birds about their homes. The sharing of these experiences is always pleasant, and in many cases, half-forgotten similar personal experiences are brought to mind, enriching our lives.

The penciled note-pictures, one after the other, evoke questions as to how widespread among our members similar experiences occur. Have you ever enjoyed the sight of huge Robin roosts in winter when a little snow is on the ground? Or the almost immediate occupancy of a handmade bird house you have just put up for Bluebirds or Great-crested Flycatchers? Or the unexpected discovery of a Bob-white's nest full of eggs? Or the scrambling about of baby Nighthawks when you disturb them on a rooftop? Or, maybe, the snake-hanging habits of a Shrike or the antics of a ventriloquial Chat?

This list could go on and on. Perhaps, this much of a sample gives some idea of the communications prevalent among bird watchers. Sharing, I think, is the greatest experience of all.

—ROBERT OVERING

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# RARE WARBLERS IN THE CAROLINAS

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER

SWAINSON'S WARBLER (*Lymnothlypis swainsonii*).—This species and the Bachman's Warbler were both discovered by Dr. John Bachman in the early 1830's in the low country of South Carolina. They were named by Audubon. Both were "lost species" for a number of years before they were rediscovered by Arthur T. Wayne, who found the Swainson's Warbler on April 22, 1884. It is now listed as a rare summer resident in all but the northwestern part of South Carolina. Since it is a bird of the "deep, dark, gloomy swamps" (Wayne), it is not easily found, although records have been made of the nests and young in the low country and as far up as Aiken County. It may breed in the center of the State, for four birds were seen in Lexington County on June 3, 1932.

In North Carolina, this warbler was noted by Ellison Williams six times during the sixteen years that he kept spring records at Tryon (*Chat* 15: 41-44, 1951). Burleigh collected three specimens near Asheville, one each in 1930, 1931, and 1932. Between 1906 and 1909 several adults and at least two nests were recorded in the lower coastal plain. J. J. Murray found and studied a nest on March 7, 1935 in Robeson County. On April 24, 1948, two of these warblers were seen at Airlie Gardens, near Wilmington, during a field trip of the Carolina Bird Club; they were identified by E. B. Chamberlain and others. Mrs. F. H. Craft reported one from Blowing Rock on June 11, 1949. Phillips Russell saw one on August 10 of that same year at Ridgecrest.

The Swainson's Warbler has an outstanding song, being compared with the Louisiana Water-Thrush in that respect. This is an aid in locating the bird, whether it may be sought in the cane thickets and swamps of the low country or in the laurel and rhododendron of the mountains. During migration, the Swainson's Warbler is not so shy as when nesting and may be found in more open situations.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera*).—Although it nests in the mountains, the Golden-winged Warbler is a rare transient in the rest of our region, since its migration route is inland by way of the Gulf Coast. In North Carolina, it has been seen six times in sixteen years at Tryon by Ellison Williams. One was seen at Henderson in the spring of 1948 by observers on their spring count. Mrs. T. W. Simpson saw one at Montreat in the late summer of 1949. In South Carolina, there are few records from the upper counties and only two from below the Fall Line. One was identified in our back yard, near Eastover, on Sept. 11, 1950, and one was seen again feeding in a large Pecan tree on Sept. 6, 1951. They are strikingly marked and easy to identify.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora pinus*).—The Blue-winged Warbler is considered to be a rare transient in the Carolinas, although it is said to have once nested near Asheville, North Carolina. It has been seen, off and on, since 1887 in the eastern half of South Carolina. One was seen on April 23, 1948, at Pawley's Island by Chandler S. Robbins. The only record since then is my own from Eastover, where on August 30, 1951, I was surprised to see a Blue-winged Warbler playing about in the dew-dampened



GOLDEN-WINGED  
WARBLER



BLUE-WINGED  
WARBLER



SWAINSON'S  
WARBLER



BACHMAN'S  
WARBLER



KIRTLAND'S  
WARBLER

D. RAVER

leaves of our Suppernong vine. In North Carolina, there have been more records from Raleigh than anywhere else. The spring count for 1950 listed one from there and another from Henderson. One was seen at Winston-Salem by Mrs. T. W. Simpson and others on Sept. 14, 1952.

BREWSTER'S WARBLER (*Vermivora leucobronchialis*) and LAWRENCE'S WARBLER (*Vermivora lawrencei*).—Of these hybrids between Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers, I can find no record from South Carolina. In North Carolina, three Brewster's Warblers have been noted: H. H. Brimley collected one near Raleigh on Sept. 6, 1888; one was reported at Chapel Hill by E. P. Odum on August 25, 1932; the third was reported from Montreat on August 28, 1936. Lawrence's Warbler was reported from Rocky Mount on June 26, 1935, by F. H. Craighill and Hugh Battle, who saw another on the following day. Earl M. Hodel saw two of the hybrids at Ronda in Wilkes County, May 8, 1938. One was seen at Raleigh on May 1, 1948.

BACHMAN'S WARBLER (*Vermivora bachmanii*).—The elusive Bachman's Warbler is similar to the Swainson's Warbler in behavior and nesting environment, as well as in its historical background. It is the rarer of the two birds, having been recorded only twice in North Carolina—C. S. Brimley took two specimens at Raleigh in 1891. Arthur T. Wayne secured the second South Carolina specimen on May 15, 1901, sixty-eight years after its original discovery in that State. On May 13, 1905, Wayne found the first young birds, at Fairlawn Plantation where the species was first discovered by Bachman. A few birds were seen there on occasion until 1919, when Wayne collected one near his home. Then they disappeared again, though Wayne continued to search until his death in 1930. In 1938, a full-plumaged male was seen by Chandler Ross at McClellanville. Henry Kennon saw one there in 1946 and again in 1947. In 1948, Bachman's Warbler was again located at Fairlawn and was also reported from McClellanville. The bird was found at Fairlawn during the next two years and was shown to a group of Carolina Bird Club members during the spring meeting on May 7, 1950. The Bachman's Warbler is a bird of dense undergrowth in uncut swamp—cane, scrub palmetto, thick bushes, or briar thickets. It is very hard to locate the song which, unlike that of the Swainson's Warbler, sounds more like the trill of an insect than a bird's song.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER (*Dendroica kirtlandii*).—"The Kirtland's Warbler . . . was first discovered on May 13, 1851, when a migrant was taken at Cleveland, Ohio. The first nest was located on July 8, 1903, near Red Oak, Oscoda County, Michigan. Every nest found subsequently has been within 60 miles of the first. In winter, the bird is known only in the Bahama Islands." This succinct statement by Harold Mayfield (*Auk* 70:17, 1953) indicates the limited distribution of this rare warbler. He and his associates made a survey of the singing males in the jack-pine country of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. During June, 1951, this species was found in only eight counties. Four hundred and thirty-two singing males were counted and an equal number of females was estimated. Thus, allowing for possible sources of error, the total population of Kirtland's Warbler is believed to be less than a thousand. Until this survey, the bird had never been found during the nesting season in other than Jack-Pine. Then some were found in stands of Red Pine, suggesting that the main requirement was not

the species of pine, but the general configuration of pine thickets and small clearings. During migration, we can expect to see this bird in similar habitats. It has been seen in North Carolina by F. H. Craighill, who reported them from Rocky Mount on Sept. 2, 1936, Sept. 22, 1938, and Sept. 23, 1941. It was first added to the South Carolina state list from the low country in 1886. One was collected two years later at Chester. Arthur T. Wayne collected one near Charleston on Oct. 29, 1903, and saw another on Oct. 4, 1910. P. M. Jenness saw one in Gaffney on May 5, 1925. The next two records from the State are from my own back yard, where one was seen on Oct. 14, 1949, and another on Sept. 1, 1951.

The status of the so-called SUTTON'S WARBLER (*Dendroica potomac*) is so uncertain that it is better left for a future date. All sight records thought to be of this species should be sent to B. R. Chamberlain with full descriptions and exact dates for his files. (See CHAT 17:24, 1953).

There are several other species—the Worm-eating, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Cerulean, Connecticut, Mourning, and Wilson's Warblers—that could be discussed if space would permit. Although not actually rare, they are all rather uncommon or of local distribution in the Carolinas.

An attempt will be made to keep this paper up to date, so we would appreciate having records of these rare warblers sent to the editors regularly during the next several years. The material and references for the present paper were taken from *South Carolina Bird Life*, by Sprunt and Chamberlain (1949); *Birds of North Carolina*, by Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley (1942); and numerous reports and field notes in recent issues of THE CHAT.—*Eastover, S. C., June 1, 1952.*

[The above paper was originally presented at the fifteenth annual meeting of the Carolina Bird Club, Raleigh, N. C., March 15, 1952. The editors immediately sought the paper for a future issue of THE CHAT, and Mrs. Tom Simpson joined Mrs. Faver in revising and editing the manuscript for publication. This fine contribution by our two "warbler experts" might well serve as a model for similar treatment of other of our poorly-known groups of birds.—T. L. QUAY.]

The excellent pen and ink drawings included in Mrs. Faver's paper on rare warblers is the work of Mr. Duane Raver, Fisheries Investigator of the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission. Readers of recent issues of *Wildlife in North Carolina* have seen a number of articles and illustrations by Mr. Raver. We are deeply appreciative of Mr. Raver's first contribution, and are proud to introduce him to *The Chat* and CBC.

"EDITOR, *The Chat*: You may wish to make mention in *The Chat* that the Park has a complete set of *The Auk*—gift of the Great Smoky Mountains Conservation Association (Knoxville). Bird students can refer to it here, preferably by appointment. We cannot send out any part of it on loan.—ARTHUR STUPKA, *Naturalist, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg, Tennessee.*"



## IN MEMORIAM

JAMES LOCKHART GADDY died suddenly of a heart attack while feeding the ducks and geese at his Wild Goose Refuge on February 19, 1953. Though his health had not been good in recent years, he still devoted his time and efforts to the thousands of geese and ducks that visited his farm at Ansonville, N. C.

Mr. Gaddy was born near Ansonville, N. C. on July 6, 1890, and was married in 1918 to Hazel Ross, who survives him. His friends always recognized in him many admirable traits, steadiness of purpose, loyalty to the best interests of his society, and fairness in all of his business dealings. But the characteristic which will perhaps be remembered the longest by his intimates was his profound interest in and knowledge of local wildlife. His comprehension of the losing battle that wildlife was fighting against the depredations of man led to his enthusiastic development of the Lockhart Gaddy Wild Goose Refuge in 1934.

The refuge was started when only 300-400 Canada Geese wintered in the Pee Dee River valley. Today the refuge provides a retreat for 8,000-10,000 wild geese and ducks. In addition to maintaining and increasing a part of one of America's natural resources, Mr. Gaddy has provided educational and entertainment benefits for thousands of people from all parts of North America. He delighted in answering visitors' questions and telling about the habits and characteristics of the geese. As each new visitor arrived at the refuge, Mr. Gaddy would tell him of the life history, migration, and habits of the geese with the same enthusiasm that he related the stories fifteen years ago. Bus loads of children from the local schools were frequently brought to the refuge by their teachers, and Mr. Gaddy would spend hours explaining to them the values of our wildlife. His mild and sincere manner was convincing. His endless patience and kindness made him appreciated by bird lovers and hunters alike. His courteous manner marked him always a born gentleman.

The success of the refuge was due to Mr. Gaddy's vast knowledge of the habits of the geese. He knew that the increase in hunting pressure and the reduction in wilderness areas necessitated a retreat where the geese could rest and sleep during the middle of the day. He understood their wariness and how to obtain their confidence. The fact that strangers could see wild geese within ten to fifteen feet of them is a tribute to his management ability.

In the death of James Lockhart Gaddy, North Carolina has lost one of her most capable and loyal naturalists, and the Canada Goose a devoted friend.—  
STEVE G. BOYCE, *Botany Department, North Carolina State College, Raleigh, N. C., April 6, 1953.*

*Lockhart Gaddy,  
his pond,  
his geese.*





# CHECK LIST OF COMMON NAMES FOR USE IN THE CAROLINAS

THOMAS W. SIMPSON, B. RHETT CHAMBERLAIN, AND THOMAS L. QUAY

The following list of common names is presented primarily for the use of field observers in recording sight records of birds seen in the Carolinas. The names are based entirely on species in accord with the principles outlined in a previous issue of *THE CHAT* (1). An effort has been made to be thoroughly consistent in the choice of vernacular names. We have endeavored to be conservative in our choices and have followed, wherever possible, the most acceptable current usage among field ornithologists. The aim has been to produce a tentative list which will closely approximate the names now under consideration by the A.O.U. committee on nomenclature. In this way, the transition from our current usage to the standardized names of the forthcoming Fifth Edition of the A.O.U. *Cheek-List of North American Birds* will be made easier. Relatively few of the names chosen for use in the present paper are at variance with those currently recommended for use in Audubon Field Notes (2).

Certain names that have been confusing and troublesome are considered more fully at the end of the list. It is anticipated that a more complete check-list including scientific names of species and the recognized subspecies of our region, with annotations on nomenclature and distribution of each, will be presented as a separate publication intended for use in studies other than sight recognition in the field.

† *Extinct or perhaps approaching extinction.*

Common Loon	Tricolored Heron (formerly Louisiana Heron)
Red-throated Loon	Little Blue Heron
Red-necked Grebe (formerly Holboell's Grebe)	Green Heron
Horned Grebe	Black-crowned Night Heron
Western Grebe	Yellow-crowned Night Heron
Pied-billed Grebe	American Bittern
Sooty Shearwater	Least Bittern
Dusky Shearwater (formerly Audubon's Shearwater)	Wood-Ibis (Not a true Ibis, hence the hyphenated compound name)
Allied Shearwater	Glossy Ibis
Greater Shearwater	White Ibis
Cinereous Shearwater (formerly Cory's Shearwater)	Roseate Spoonbill
Leach's Petrel	Flamingo
Wilson's Petrel	Mute Swan (wild)
Yellow-billed Tropic-bird	Whistling Swan
White Pelican	Canada Goose
Brown Pelican	American Brant
Blue-faced Booby (White Booby)	Barnacle Goose
Brown Booby (formerly White-bellied Booby)	White-fronted Goose
Gannet	Snow Goose
Common Cormorant (formerly European Cormorant)	Blue Goose
Double-crested Cormorant	Fulvous Tree-Duck
Anhinga (Water-Turkey)	Mallard
Magnificent Frigate-bird (Magnificent Man-o'-War Bird) (differentiated from Lesser Frigate-bird)	Black Duck
Great White Heron	Gadwall
Great Blue Heron	American Pintail (differentiated from Bahaman Pintail)
Common Egret (formerly American Egret)	Common Teal (formerly European Teal)
Snowy Egret	Green-winged Teal
Reddish Egret	Blue-winged Teal
	Cinnamon Teal
	European Widgeon
	American Widgeon (Baldpate)
	Shoveller
	Wood Duck

Redhead	Upland Plover (Not a Plover, old term Bartramian Sandpiper probably more accurate.)
Ring-necked Duck (Ring-billed Duck, Black-jack)	Spotted Sandpiper
Canvas-back	Solitary Sandpiper
Greater Scaup (Greater Bluebill)	Willet
Lesser Scaup (Lesser Bluebill)	Greater Yellow-legs
Common Golden-eye (differentiated from Barrow's Golden-eye)	Lesser Yellow-legs
Bufflehead	Knot
Old-squaw	Purple Sandpiper
Harlequin Duck	Pectoral Sandpiper
King Eider	White-rumped Sandpiper
White-winged Scoter	Baird's Sandpiper
Surf Scoter	Least Sandpiper
Black Scoter (formerly American Scoter)	Dunlin (formerly Red-backed Sandpiper)
Ruddy Duck	Dowitcher
Hooded Merganser	Stilt Sandpiper
Common Merganser (formerly American Merganser)	Semipalmated Sandpiper
Red-breasted Merganser	Western Sandpiper
Turkey Vulture ("Buzzard" as synonym is misnomer and should not be used)	Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Black Vulture	Marbled Godwit
White-tailed Kite	Hudsonian Godwit
Swallow-tailed Kite	Ruff (Reeve)
Mississippi Kite	Sanderling
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Avocet
Cooper's Hawk	Black-necked Stilt
Red-tailed Hawk	Red Phalarope
Harlan's Hawk	Wilson's Phalarope
Red-shouldered Hawk	Northern Phalarope
Broad-winged Hawk	Pomarine Jaeger
Swainson's Hawk	Parasitic Jaeger
Rough-legged Hawk	Long-tailed Jaeger
Golden Eagle	Glaucous Gull
Bald Eagle	Iceland Gull
Marsh Hawk	Great Black-backed Gull (differentiated from Lesser Black-backed Gull)
Osprey (Fish Hawk)	Herring Gull
Caracara	Ring-billed Gull
Peregrine Falcon (formerly Duck Hawk)	Laughing Gull
Pigeon Hawk	Franklin's Gull
Sparrow Hawk	Bonaparte's Gull
Ruffed Grouse	Kittiwake (Kittiwake Gull would be more consistent usage)
Bob-white	Gull-billed Tern
Ring-necked Pheasant (wild)	Forster's Tern
Turkey	Common Tern
†Whooping Crane	Roseate Tern
Sandhill Crane	Sooty Tern
Limpkin	Bridled Tern
King Rail	Least Tern
Clapper Rail	Royal Tern
Virginia Rail	Sandwich Tern (formerly Cabot's Tern)
Sora Rail	Caspian Tern
Yellow Rail	Black Tern
Black Rail	Noddy Tern
Purple Gallinule	Black Skimmer
Common Gallinule (formerly Florida Gallinule)	Razor-billed Auk
American Coot (differentiated from Carib- bean Coot)	Thick-billed Murre (Brunnich's Murre)
American Oyster-catcher (differentiated from Frazar's and Black Oyster- catchers)	Dovekie
Lapwing	Rock Dove (wild)
Piping Plover	Mourning Dove
Ringed Plover (formerly Semipalmated Plover)	†Passenger Pigeon
Thick-billed Plover (formerly Wilson's Plover)	Ground Dove
Killdeer	†Carolina Paroquet
Golden Plover	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Black-bellied Plover	Black-billed Cuckoo
Ruddy Turnstone (differentiated from Black and European Turnstones)	Barn Owl
American Woodcock (differentiated from European Woodcock)	Screech Owl
Common Snipe	Great Horned Owl
Long-billed Curlew	Snowy Owl
Hudsonian Curlew	Burrowing Owl
†Eskimo Curlew	Barred Owl
	Long-eared Owl
	Short-eared Owl
	Saw-whet Owl
	Chuck-will's-widow
	Whip-poor-will
	Common Night-hawk (differentiated from Texas, or Trilling, Night-hawk)

Chimney Swift (differentiated from Black, Vaux's, White-throated and other Swifts)  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird (differentiated from numerous other species)  
 Rufous Hummingbird  
 Belted Kingfisher (differentiated from Green, or Texas, Kingfisher)  
 Yellow-shafted Flicker (differentiated from Red-shafted Flicker)  
 Red-headed Woodpecker  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker  
 Red-headed Woodpecker  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (distinguished from Williamson's Sapsucker)  
 Hairy Woodpecker  
 Downy Woodpecker  
 Red-cockaded Woodpecker  
 †Ivory-billed Woodpecker  
 Eastern Kingbird (differentiated from Gray and Western, or Arkansas, Kingbirds)  
 Gray Kingbird  
 Arkansas Kingbird  
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
 Great-crested Flycatcher (differentiated from Mexican Crested Flycatcher)  
 Eastern Phoebe (differentiated from Black and Say's Phoebes)  
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher  
 Acadian Flycatcher  
 Traill's Flycatcher (formerly Alder Flycatcher)  
 Least Flycatcher  
 Eastern Wood Pewee (differentiated from Western Wood Pewee)  
 Olive-sided Flycatcher  
 Horned Lark  
 Tree Swallow  
 Bank Swallow  
 Rough-winged Swallow  
 Barn Swallow  
 Cliff Swallow  
 Purple Martin (differentiated from Gray-breasted Martin)  
 Blue Jay (differentiated from Florida, or Scrub, Jay and Canada Jay, as well as several other species in western U. S.)  
 Common Raven (differentiated from White-necked Raven)  
 American Crow (differentiated from Fish, Palm, and other Crows)  
 Fish Crow  
 Black-capped Chickadee  
 Carolina Chickadee  
 Tufted Titmouse (differentiated from Plain and Bridled Titmice)  
 White-breasted Nuthatch  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch  
 Brown-headed Nuthatch  
 Brown Creeper  
 House Wren  
 Winter Wren  
 Bewick's Wren  
 Carolina Wren  
 Marsh Wren (formerly Long-billed Marsh Wren)  
 Sedge Wren (formerly Short-billed Marsh Wren)  
 Eastern Mockingbird (differentiated from various tropical Mockingbirds)  
 Catbird  
 Brown Thrasher (differentiated from several western U. S. Thrashers)  
 American Robin (differentiated from entirely different European Robin)  
 Wood Thrush  
 Hermit Thrush  
 Swainson's Thrush (formerly Olive-backed Thrush)  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush  
 Wilson's Thrush (Vcery)  
 Common Bluebird (differentiated from Western, or Mexican, and Mountain Bluebirds)  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (differentiated from Plumbeous and Western Gnatcatchers)  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
 Water Pipit (formerly American Pipit)  
 Sprague's Pipit  
 Cedar Waxwing (differentiated from Bohemian Waxwing)  
 Loggerhead Shrike (differentiated from Northern Shrike)  
 Starling  
 White-eyed Vireo  
 Yellow-throated Vireo  
 Solitary Vireo (formerly Blue-headed Vireo)  
 Red-eyed Vireo  
 Philadelphia Vireo  
 Warbling Vireo  
 Black-and-White Warbler  
 Prothonotary Warbler  
 Swainson's Warbler  
 Worm-eating Warbler  
 Golden-winged Warbler  
 Blue-winged Warbler  
 †Bachman's Warbler  
 Tennessee Warbler  
 Orange-crowned Warbler  
 Nashville Warbler  
 Parula Warbler  
 Yellow Warbler  
 Magnolia Warbler  
 Cape May Warbler  
 Black-throated Blue Warbler  
 Myrtle Warbler  
 Black-throated Gray Warbler  
 Black-throated Green Warbler  
 Cerulean Warbler  
 Blackburnian Warbler  
 Yellow-throated Warbler  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler  
 Bay-breasted Warbler  
 Black-poll Warbler  
 Pine Warbler  
 Kirtland's Warbler  
 Prairie Warbler  
 Palm Warbler  
 Oven-bird  
 Small-billed Water-Thrush (formerly Northern Water-Thrush (Grinnell's Water-Thrush)  
 Louisiana Water-Thrush  
 Kentucky Warbler  
 Connecticut Warbler  
 Mourning Warbler  
 Yellow-throat  
 Yellow-breasted Chat (differentiated from entirely different Palm-Chat and also from Mexican Ground-Chat, formerly called Rio Grande Yellow-throat)  
 Hooded Warbler  
 Wilson's Warbler  
 Canada Warbler  
 American Redstart (differentiated from Painted Redstart)  
 House Sparrow (English Sparrow) (Not a true Sparrow, but a Weaver-Finch)  
 Bobolink (Rice-bird)  
 Common Meadowlark (differentiated from Western Meadowlark)  
 Yellow-headed Blackbird  
 Red-winged Blackbird  
 Orchard Oriole  
 Baltimore Oriole  
 Rusty Blackbird  
 Brewer's Blackbird

Boat-tailed Grackle	Savannah Sparrow
Common Grackle	Grasshopper Sparrow
Common Cowbird (differentiated from Red-eyed Cowbird)	LeConte's Sparrow
Scarlet Tanager	Henslow's Sparrow
Summer Tanager	Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Cardinal	Seaside Sparrow
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Vesper Sparrow
Blue Grosbeak	Lark Sparrow
Indigo Bunting	Bachman's Sparrow (formerly Pine-woods Sparrow)
Painted Bunting (Nonpareil)	Slate-colored Junco (differentiated from Pink-sided and other Juncos)
Dickcissel	American Tree Sparrow (differentiated from Eurasian Tree Sparrow)
Evening Grosbeak	Chipping Sparrow
Purple Finch	Clay-colored Sparrow
Redpoll	Field Sparrow
Pine Siskin	Harris's Sparrow
American Goldfinch (differentiated from European, Arkansas, and Lawrence's Goldfinches)	White-crowned Sparrow
Red Crossbill	White-throated Sparrow
White-winged Crossbill	Fox Sparrow
Green-tailed Towhee	Lincoln's Sparrow
Eastern Towhee (formerly Red-eyed Towhee, White-eyed Towhee, Alabama Towhee; differentiated from Green-tailed and other western U. S. Towhees)	Swamp Sparrow
Ipswich Sparrow	Song Sparrow
	Lapland Longspur
	Smith's Longspur
	Snow Bunting

#### ADDITIONAL COMMENT ON CERTAIN SPECIES

The chief weakness of the names used in the past is that there has been no clear-cut distinction in kind between those used for full species and those applied to subspecies. Most of the major changes are directed to correcting this defect. The terms American Crow, Swainson's Thrush, Solitary Vireo, Small-billed Water-Thrush, Common Meadowlark, Common Grackle, and Eastern Towhee are chosen for the purpose of including subspecies which had previously carried confusing names. Thus, with accurately identified specimens in the hand, one might speak of the Olive-backed Swainson's Thrush and the Russet-backed Swainson's Thrush, having reference in this case to two distinct subspecies, or races. Other confusing subspecific names which should be avoided are listed in the paper by Simpson in THE CHAT of March, 1953, to which reference should be made (1).

In many cases, an additional term must be used to distinguish a species in our region from one or more species that may be found in the western United States, the far North, or the Tropics of the western hemisphere. No particular effort has been made to distinguish our birds in this way from those of Europe, Asia, or the Pacific, except where these other species have been recorded as accidentals on our shores. Notations on these differentiating terms are included in the list itself and are largely self-explanatory. In order to prevent unnecessary use of such qualifying terms, it would seem advisable to select different names for such birds as the White-faced Glossy Ibis, California Clapper Rail, Flammulated and Spotted Screech Owls, and the Cuban (Coahuila, Antillean) Cliff Swallow, all of which are distinct species from their eastern counterparts.

The name Canada Goose covers all of the subspecies, including the so-called Richardson's or Hutchin's race. It should be noted that the name Hutchin's Goose has been wrongly applied in the past to the Lesser Canada Goose, which may conceivably be found in our region. Use of the simple

specific name alone is recommended, even though the various races can sometimes be separated in the field.

The name Rough-legged Hawk formerly had to be preceded by the term American in order to distinguish this species from the so-called Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk. The latter species is now called Ferruginous Hawk, rendering the distinction unnecessary.

The Eastern Wood Pewee and Western Wood Pewee are two distinct species. In this case the term Wood seems redundant and can possibly be deleted, leaving Eastern Pewee and Western Pewee as the names of choice.

The bird formerly called Short-billed Marsh Wren is given the more descriptive term Sedge Wren. This leaves the name Marsh Wren for the species known previously as the Long-billed Marsh Wren. The cumbersome adjectives relating to the bill length are thus avoided, except for sub-specific distinction when this is permissible for specimens in the hand.

The name Wilson's Thrush would appear to be more consistent usage, although the term Veery is possibly more familiar at present to most observers. The term Bachman's Sparrow is selected for the species name, rather than Pine-woods Sparrow, on rather arbitrary grounds. The decision is favored by the fact that Dr. John Bachman was a South Carolina naturalist.

Frequently the field observer cannot safely distinguish between closely related species such as the two Scaups, the two Yellow-legs, the four small flycatchers of the genus *Empidonax*, and the two Chickadees. It is suggested that they be listed as Scaup sp., Yellow-legs sp., *Empidonax* sp., and Chickadee sp.

Species such as the Mute Swan, Ring-necked Pheasant, and Rock Dove (Domestic Pigeon) should not be recorded unless definitely known to be established as wild birds. The Starling and House Sparrow (English Sparrow) have become well established as wild species and can be listed without question.

"Sutton's Warbler" is of uncertain status at present, but of sufficient importance as an *avis ignota* that birds meeting the description be tentatively recorded under the name, with full particulars (3). Typical hybrids of Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers of the "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" types should be recorded as such if seen.

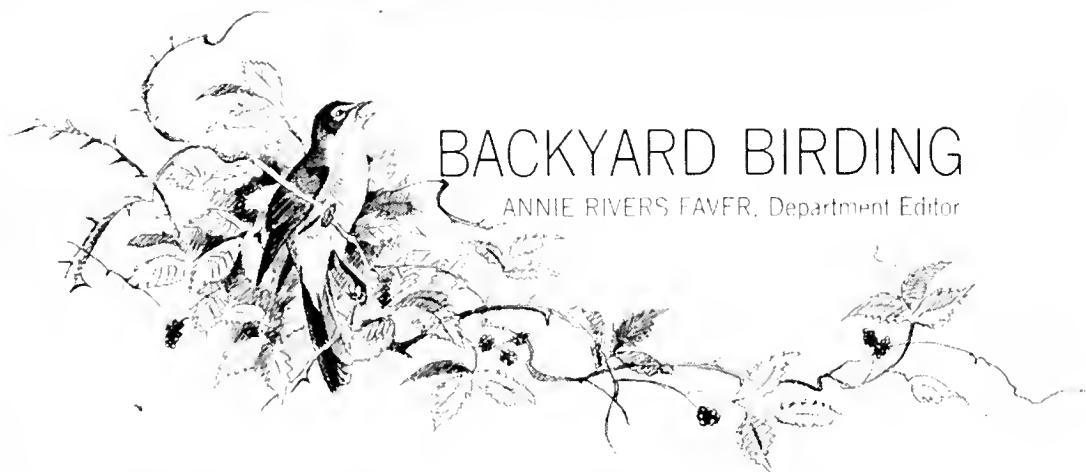
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- (1) Simpson, Thomas W. The Trend Toward More Meaningful Use of Common Names. *The Chat*, 17:4, March, 1953. (A limited supply of reprints are available on request.)
- (2) Aldrich, John W. Definite Common Names for Species—An Editorial Policy, and More on the Subject of Common Names. *Audubon Field Notes* 4:36, February, 1950, and 4:260, August, 1950.
- (3) Chamberlain, B. Rhett. Sutton's Warbler and Sight Records. *The Chat* 17:24, March, 1953.

—3252 Reynolda Road, Winston-Salem, N. C., April 1, 1953.

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He looked across the sea and knew how alone he was now. But he could see the prisms in the dark water and the line stretching ahead and the strange undulation of the calm. The clouds were building up now for the trade wind and he looked ahead and saw a flight of wild ducks etching themselves against the sky over the water, then blurring, then etching again and he knew that no man was ever alone on the sea. ERNEST HEMINGWAY, *The Old Man and the Sea*, 1952,



## BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVFR, Department Editor

Once more we are back in the middle of the nesting season. It is always interesting to watch the activities centered around the raising of young birds, but we must remember never to harm in any way or expose a nest. Even if you pull the leaves apart to get a picture, be sure to return them to their original positions, lest you betray the presence of the baby birds to Blue Jays, Crows, cats or snakes. Be on the alert, though, for any unusual nesting records or other interesting material which would be appreciated by this department.

Mr. Robert Coleman, President of the Charleston Natural History Society, on March 8, 1953, saw a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, hanging upside down like a Chickadee, while feeding on *Liquidambar* berries. Mrs. Francis Barrington also reports having seen, on a number of occasions in late February, a Sapsucker eating *Cassina* berries. It was found that no one in that section had ever before observed Sapsuckers feeding on these particular berries.

One of the more serious projects that can be undertaken in backyard birding is that of banding. A report that makes me green with envy has been sent in by Patrick K. Garland, Demarest, N. J. Mr. Garland is a new member of C. B. C., and if this is a sample of his work, I hope we can

look forward to hearing from him very often. I wish we had the space to give the whole report, but we will have to use only a brief resumé. From January 1, to December 31, 1952, 1,430 individuals from 36 species of birds were banded. He listed 2,001 repeats (once per day only), 132 returns, and 3 recoveries. Foreign retraps numbered 32. There were no casualties. Also trapped at this station (No. 4728) were 67 English Sparrows, 4 Gray Squirrels, 3 Opossums, 16 Chipmunks, 5 House Cats, and 3 Skunks.—A.R.F.

*Notes from Wing Haven*—This morning a Whip-poor-will awakened us at twenty minutes to five. Bradford, our dog, heard it too, and got out of his bed and stood listening to it call close to the window. All day, the birds have fussed. Once, when I was looking for the reason, a bird flew up from the ground on the other side of the hedge, and I'm sure it was the Whip-poor-will. The birds in our garden treat all goatsuckers as they do Screech Owls. Last fall, a Nighthawk sat every day for a week on a limb of a pine in the upper garden. All the birds harassed him continuously! Chuck-will's-widows that stop to spend a day in the garden are treated in the same manner. Once a family of Bluebirds left the nest while a Chuck-will's-widow was in the garden, and they were as excited as if he'd been a hawk.

There is merit in recording species and counting numbers, but there is fascination in recognizing certain birds within a species even when you do not color band them. It's the variation from normal pattern, the bird you recognize as an individual, that keeps "Backyard Birding" so interesting. Otherwise, you see a new record as to species so seldom after many years of watching birds, that you lose your zest for it.

When we count forty-four Cardinals at one time at Wing Haven, we are pleased but not astounded. But when we know one male which broke off both mandibles to the quick and survived the accident, we are filled with awe! Our next door neighbor saw him first, and kept out food that he could take into the gaping hole with his tongue. As the mandibles grew back, they were deformed, as is often the case when they have been broken or injured. The upper one was short, about half the usual length. The lower grew very long, almost twice normal length, and was shaped like a sugar scoop. To eat with this inconvenient arrangement, he had to lay his head on one side and scoop food into the lower mandible, allowing it to slide back far enough for the upper mandible to reach it. In this miraculous way, he managed very well, for he lived three years! The last time he was seen, it was sleeting, and in trying to feed, he had gotten his lower mandible full of ice. During his lifetime, even though he looked like a creature from Mars, he was the most interesting and gallant Cardinal in the garden.

For four summers, a Cardinal with one leg successfully raised families. Now the "Frog Hollow Cardinal," so called because he lives in that part of the garden that we have named Frog Hollow, has defended that territory for four years in spite of a drooping left wing. This is no easy task, for all the birds, including the Cardinals, come to drink and bathe in Frog Hollow, but long may he reign!

Not only an accident or a deformity enables you to know individual birds, but also characteristics of plumage or habits that can't readily be explained to the casual observer. One of the most unusual was the habit of the Cardinal who tapped her feet alternately and constantly while eating, as though she were standing on something hot. For several years, we could tell "who" was on the feeder without even looking, because of that telltale tapping.

During the latter part of the summer of 1952, a female Cardinal which was acquiring her adult plumage, attracted our attention by having a snow-white head. Only her crest showed color. Gradually during the winter, the head has darkened some, whether by wearing of the feather tips or by dirt, I cannot say. Her head is still more or less white, and she could never be mistaken for any other Cardinal.

While I have been writing the last paragraph, a pair of Carolina Wrens have been coming in and out of my room, getting meal worms out of a dish not fifteen inches from my hand. The arrangement was their own idea, and has been going on for several years. Needless to say, we have indulged them with countless thousands of meal worms. Their first babies of 1953 left the nest last week. March 26 was the first day we saw them. One of the adults has a completely white outer tail-feather on the right side.—ELIZABETH BARNHILL CLARKSON, *Wing Haven, Charlotte, N. C., April 1, 1953.*

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Miss Harriot McGee says that on October 21, 1952, she had an American Bittern at her third-story window in the heart of Charleston. It tried to light in the Yellow Begonia vine, then dropped to the driveway where it immediately struck its characteristic pose, head pointing directly to the sky! Her phone rang, and on her return, it had gone.



## GENERAL FIELD NOTES

*Advisory Council:* E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

*Department Editor:* B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

A word regarding the revision of common names offered elsewhere in this issue. The proposed names naturally will be used in this department. The changes, however, need not present a material problem, even to the oldest of us. In the first place, ninety percent of the names we have grown up with are not touched. About half of the remainder are of birds most of us will never see, and of the remaining five percent, well over half are changed simply by prefixing "American," or "Common," to the old name. For the ones that are changed, there is sound reasoning, and we should become familiar with them.

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**Canvas-backs in Shallow Water.**—Harry Davis has contributed the following interesting account of unusual feeding behavior of a group of Canvas-backs. The author, T. G. Samworth, was then located at a riverside place in Onslow County, N. C. The year, 1936:

"January 29. Extremely cold and nice over most of the river. A few open spots close in shore and ducks feeding in them. This morning six of the biggest Canvas-backs I ever saw were feeding in about a foot and a half of water. They had to tip up to feed, and were there with about thirty Black Duck who were evidently showing them how it was done.

"The Canvas-back is not built right for tipping, and when these ducks up-ended they had to keep reaching for the water with their feet and continually push themselves to keep in an upright position. They worked their feet very fast, one after the other, and made quite a splashing all the time they stood on their heads. Canvas-backs cannot get as much of their bodies under water as a Black Duck or other tippers can, and the entire half sticks up in the air.—I have never before known Canvas-backs to feed in this manner, they always dove under entirely and stayed in deeper water, but that was all frozen this morning and they were doing the best they could."



**Purple Sandpipers at Wilmington, N. C., Charleston, S. C., and Savannah, Ga.**—In spite of a comparatively mild winter, several reports came to us of Purple Sandpipers (*Erolia maritima*) on the coast. At Wilmington, where they have appeared for the past few years, Mrs. Cecil Appleberry saw one on Sept. 12, two on Sept. 28, and ten on Nov. 15, 1952. Also at Wilmington, where these northern sandpipers are attracted by an old rock jetty, one was seen by Oscar Paris and Bill James, on Dec. 28, 1952; four, by Stanley Quickmire, Jr., and B. H. Matlock on Jan. 12; and one by Louise Forsyth (Secy., New Hampshire Audubon Society) and Mrs. Appleberry on Jan. 28, 1953.

On Feb. 19, John Henry Dick, while visiting Fort Sumter, in Charleston harbor, watched a flock of about fifty of these birds on the rocks, feeding with Ruddy Turnstones. This is by far the largest number ever recorded at one time on our coast. Mr. Dick had been following the coast down from Maine, looking for Purple Sandpipers.

At Tybee Beach, Georgia, at the mouth of the Savannah River, just across the South Carolina-Georgia state line, two Purple Sandpipers were watched at length on Jan. 17, 1953, while they fed with turnstones, by E. B. Chamberlain, Ellison Williams, Gabriel Cannon, *et al.* These birds were carefully working over a barnacle encrusted wooden sea barrier at the edge of the surf.—*Dept. Ed.*

**Jaeger and Kittiwakes off the Coast.**—The following is a digest from my journal on a brief cruise into southern waters:

"Dec. 27, 1952—An immature Kittiwake this morning. Two, and probably three, are with us until noon. Our noon position is 36° 06' N; 75° 00' W, which would put us about 35 miles offshore, just a few miles north of being opposite Kitty Hawk, N. C.

"Jan. 3, 1953—At noon our position is 35° 11' N; 75° 07' W, which places us about 21 miles directly east of Cape Hatteras. At 2:30 p.m., 4 Kittiwakes join us, and this is approximately the same area in which they left us going south. At 3 p.m., to my surprise, a Pomarine Jaeger circles the ship twice. They were common between Havana and Nassau, three days ago, but I have seen none since then until now, and I did not expect to see one so far north in winter."—PHILLIPS B. STREET, *Exton, Pa.* March 23, 1953. (Mid-winter records of Pomarine Jaegers off Hatteras are indeed rare. However, we get few records of any kind from that area. *Dept. Ed.*)

**Bird Nesting Colonies in North Carolina.**—This subject is suggested as a beginning of an inventory that should have interest for members and the general public. Some scientific values are manifest in the numbers and the shifting of populations at nesting sites, and the reasons therefor. Enough members, or others, can be enlisted to make this yearly inventory quite complete. Arbitrarily a colony for this purpose might be defined as ten or more pairs of nesting birds, using a contiguous area.

As a beginning, I am offering some notes below and am writing to a number of members to ask them to send accounts of their 1952 observations to General Field Notes.



Harry T. Davis, N. C.  
State Museum, Raleigh,  
N. C. at Pea Island  
banding Royal Terns.

On July 4 and 5, 1952, Dr. John Grey and I went to the Pea Island Refuge in Dare County, where we had banded young birds for several summers.

On the marshes in the Pamlico Sound bay, of one time New Inlet, we found Common Terns with unhatched eggs on the seaweed flotsom, about 20 pairs in all. We trapped and banded eight adult birds. We searched Rookery Island, one mile west, where we had found hundreds of young Royal Terns in 1948 and 1949. This was altogether abandoned, as it was last summer. Very few Royals were seen on the wing.

A half mile to the South we located a colony of mixed herons in some low trees, estimated at 25 pairs. The heron colony near the old camp was not active.

On Grassy Island, one mile west from the south side of Oregon Inlet, we observed an estimated 250 pairs of nesting Laughing Gulls. The hatched young were small and in the thick rushes and saw grass. We did not band them, although we had banded hundreds there in previous years. They were the most abundant of the birds about the refuge.

On an area of two acres, 150 yards west from the ferry slip on the north side of Oregon Inlet, there was a colony of some 75 pairs of Black Skimmers. The area was bare sand, rather fine and blowing when dry, that had been thrown up by dredging within the past year. With the skimmers were some 20 pairs of Common Terns, 12 pairs of Least Terns and one pair of Gull-billed Terns.

We trapped and banded six of the adult skimmers, the first one taken having been banded by us on July 19, 1949, about one mile to the north. We dug 96 young skimmers, large enough to band, from the shifting sand. Here we likewise banded 13 young Common Terns, 13 Least Terns and 1 Gull-billed Tern.

Bob Wolff and some helpers went to the above area on July 24, 1952, and found 68 skimmers, 20 Least Terns, and 13 Common Terns large enough to band.

On July 19, 1952, John Grey banded 27 skimmers on Wreck Island, Chesapeake Bay, Va., along with a pair of American Oyster-catchers.

To observe bird colonies in the Ocracoke region, I received a friendly lift on a boat going through the Inland Waterway Canal from Morehead, thence out the mouth of Neuse River and across the lower Sound, dates July 11 & 18.

About a mile north from Highway 70 bridge, Newport River, was an island colony with some 40 pairs of mixed herons.

In approaching Ocracoke we passed close to Shell Castle, North Rock and Beacon Islands. On the last there were low bushes and about 20 pairs of herons. The other Islands were well covered with weeds and small shrubs. There were altogether estimated 700 pairs of Laughing Gulls and more than that of waddling young.

Least and Common Terns had nested on bare spots, some 100 pairs of each. Skimmers fished around but do not nest near vegetation. Probably they nested on the open barrier beach. Only an occasional Royal Tern was seen flying in search of food. No Brown Pelicans were seen although they had nested here in previous years.

The famed Royal Shoals, traditional home of Royal Terns, has been washed flat. It is well out in Pamlico Sound, north of Ocracoke and it was not observed. Other shoals that have built higher here (Howard Lumps), or in the vicinity of Cape Hatteras, may have taken care of the Royal Tern colonies.

July 5, 1952, Isham B. Rogers, Supt. of Schools in Onslow County, reported several hundred Black Skimmer nests on a bare sand (dredge dump) area of 1 and ½ acres to the west of Bardens Inlet, near Cape Lookout.—  
HARRY T. DAVIS, *State Museum, Raleigh, N. C.*

**Black Terns and State Lines.**—In our Briefs for the Files section of the March 1953 issue (*The Chat* 17:26), we carried an ambiguous statement regarding the location of eight Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger surinamensis*), seen by Mrs. A. W. Bachman and party. They were shown as having been seen at the Bugg's Island Dam, near Henderson, N. C.

Frederic R. Scott of Richmond, Virginia, has kindly called to our attention the fact that the new Bugg's Island dam proper is well within the boundaries of Virginia. The area covered by waters backed up by the dam are quite extensive, and Mrs. Bachman's reference was to the area rather than to the site of the dam itself. The eight Black Terns seen on Sept. 6, 1952 were well within North Carolina, and only some seven miles above Henderson.

Additional observations of uncommon water birds may be anticipated in both Virginia and North Carolina by the creation of this large new inland feeding area. It will be most helpful if future reports from this area show clearly in which state or states the observations are made.—*Dept. Ed.*

**The Yellow-breasted Chat in the Carolinas.**—(The following notes, dealing principally with winter observations, are taken from a paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Carolina Bird Club at Columbia, S. C., March 21, 1953, by Mrs. Matt L. Thompson, of Chapel Hill, N. C.)

This study had its immediate inspiration in the appearance of a Yellow-breasted Chat in my neighborhood in Chapel Hill, on January 20, 1953. This bird, after which our state magazine was named, is a common summer resident over most of both the Carolinas and now may be considered a rare and noteworthy wintering bird in both states, South Carolina having established its first and only published winter record in January 1947 (*Auk* 64:467, 1947). There are three winter records for North Carolina. By pure accident, while in conversation with Mrs. Sample Forbus, I learned that Miss Dorothy Hutaff, of Fayetteville, had recorded on January 8, 1951, a Chat coming to her feeders on three occasions in one week. For two months, until yesterday (Mar. 20) Mrs. Guy B. Johnson and Mrs. M. A. Hill, both of Chapel Hill, and veteran birders, have each had the pleasure of boasting a Chat at her feeder. We have kept track of the behavior of these birds with a great deal of interest. They are both quite aggressive and are sometimes seen feeding as often as seven or eight times a day. I had only to wait a matter of a few minutes to see the one at Mrs. Johnson's shortly after it first arrived. I got close enough to the window to have no need for my binoculars and saw it fly carelessly down to the feeder which was fastened to the north sill of a dining room window about ten feet above the ground. It flew, but returned shortly to the tray where it ate bread crumbs most casually, then it was off with a whole peanut in its bill. Since that time it has been feeding with White-throated Sparrows and Purple Finches. Sometimes it gives battle, so far successfully, to as many as three Blue Jays at once. In Fayetteville and at both locations at Chapel Hill, the chosen sites frequented by these Chats have little resemblance to the accustomed summer haunts of this big warbler.

Records of the winter occurrences of the Chat elsewhere in this country have been furnished by Chandler S. Robbins, Editor of *Audubon Field Notes*. During last winter there were 15 records from the state of Massachusetts. There are a few reports from New York, but there is a puzzling gap between the New England states and North Carolina. An observation in New Jersey in December 1939, and another at Cape Henry, Virginia, Dec. 1905, appear to be the sole records in that vast area.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird in North Carolina in 1948 and 1949.**—The occurrence of a Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) at New Holland, Jan. 11, 1952 (*The Chat* 16:26), and the collecting of a specimen at Raleigh, August 15, 1952 (*The Chat* 16:101), have brought to light the details of two observations at Wilmington reported by Mrs. Cecil Appleberry as follows: "Aug. 3, 1948—A male Yellow-headed Blackbird flew across a field about 100 feet in front of us (Mary Baker, Polly Mebane, and

myself), following a flock of Redwings out of one tree and into another. We looked up as the Redwings flew and all of us saw the bird and screamed 'Yellow-headed Blackbird' at the same time. Since it was flying in a straight line with its side to us, we had a wonderful view of its golden head and neck. We were working over a mainland area near Wrightsville Sound. On April 9, 1949, a male flew across the road ahead of me in the same general area where we saw the 1948 bird."

Investigation of these sight records of so distinctive a bird as a male Yellow-headed Blackbird, by these people, removes any doubt of the validity of the reports.—*Dept. Ed.*

**Redpolls off Cape Hatteras.**—A clipping from the *New York Herald Tribune*, March 18, 1953, sent to us by Aaron Bagg of Holyoke, Mass., records the recovery on Feb. 11, 1953, of two Redpolls, 85 miles northeast of Cape Hatteras, N. C. The account follows, in part:

"Two Redpolls—returned yesterday from a South American cruise to Valparaiso, Chile, aboard the Grace Line passenger-cargo ship *Santa Barbara*.—The birds, part of a flock of fifty, began their voyage thirty-five days ago when they flopped exhausted on the deck of the *Santa Barbara*, eighty-five miles northeast of Cape Hatteras. The vessel was southbound, one day out of New York.

"Although all but two of the Redpolls were swept overboard by strong winds, the survivors couldn't have picked a better spot to land. Aboard the *Santa Barbara* were Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schnitzer, two bird watchers from Elizabeth, N. J., and B. A. Ricker, junior third officer of the vessel, who had two pet canaries in his cabin.

"The Schnitzers identified the birds as wayward travelers and saved them. They then radioed—for leg bands, which were air-mailed to the vessel's port of call at Callao, Peru."

The birds were banded at Callao and put in the care of Mr. Ricker for the return voyage to New York, and release.

This account is particularly significant for us. The sailing date of the *Santa Barbara* was confirmed at the Charlotte Public Library. When these Redpolls, a male and a female, reached the vessel, they were within eighty-five miles of the North Carolina coast on an enforced flight south. Mr. Howe, of the U. S. Weather Bureau at Charlotte, N. C., has kindly examined the reports of Feb. 10 and 11 for us and determined that, on those dates, the *Santa Barbara* was in the path of a strong surface wind from the north, which had its origin in a high barometric area over Newfoundland. It seems certain that these small finches could have reached the vessel only from a northerly direction, and that they came from New England or Canada.

This provides a probable explanation for the presence of Redpolls and other northern species we find as occasional stragglers in the Carolinas. Are they driven south over water, before strong winds, through no choice of their own?—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C.*

**Red Crossbills in North Carolina.**—The winter of 1952-1953 brought the usually very rare Red Crossbills to North Carolina in some force. Reports have come from Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Charlotte, and Matthews. From Greensboro, George Smith writes: "I have the good fortune to report small flocks of Red Crossbills visiting the pines near my home since Jan. 31. On that day I found four males and two females or immature males feeding on pine seed which are very abundant this year, at least the Virginia Pine has a large crop. I was able to observe them in bright sunlight for at least thirty minutes, and several local bird club members were able to see them before they left the area.

"Two weeks later I found a flock of at least eight birds in the same trees near my home. Again, a week later, I found four birds. Yesterday and today (Mar. 15) they were around several times over a period of three or four hours. All of the foregoing are week-end observations. I am away

during the week, and so have missed seeing more of them. All of my observations were between 1:00 p.m., and 5:15 p.m.”

Charles M. Frost reported from **Winston-Salem**: “On March 1, 1953, while walking near home with my son, we heard an unusual noise in a heavily coned pine tree. Investigation showed a few Pine Siskins in the tree. As they were not responsible for the racket and the falling pine seed, we continued our search and soon saw an orangy red head curl around a pine cone, followed by the red body and dark wings and tail. Remembering that the Red Crossbills seen in Greensboro were with Pine Siskins, I was fairly sure we had them in front of us. I went for field glasses, and returning, found five Red Crossbills about four feet above the ground, and about five feet from the sidewalk. There were more of them, and, altogether we saw a total of about ten males and six females, after we had been joined by the Simpsons, the Spencers, and Mrs. Wyatt.”

At **Charlotte**, Olin P. Wearn had a group of Red Crossbills in his yard fairly regularly from Jan. 1st., to Feb. 16th. They numbered as many as 10 males and 6 females, at times. Mr. Wearn commented upon the manner in which the birds tore up the pine cones in getting at the seed. He also was attracted by an unusual turning of their heads on one side when drinking water from a bird bath that had a light film of ice on it. Also at Charlotte, Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Clarkson had a single Red Crossbill visit Wing Haven on January 25, 1953.

At **Matthews**, B. R. Chamberlain watched a flock of ten or eleven Red Crossbills for several minutes, around eight o'clock on the morning of Mar. 4. Four or five of these were brilliant males. They were clinging to unopened and ice-glazed pine cones on a limb scarcely five feet over his head. They were chattering constantly with chick-like notes. They were not with other birds, and they left the area in a body.—*Dept. Ed.*

**Status of the White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*) in North and South Carolina.**—The following extracts are from a paper prepared by Earl M. Hodel and Linville L. Hendren, of Elkin, N. C., and presented *in absentia* at the Annual Meeting of the Carolina Bird Club at Columbia, S. C., March 21, 1953.

The reported occurrences of White-crowned Sparrows in the Carolinas are divided in this paper into two periods: 1833 to 1938; and 1939 to present date. Data are from *Birds of North Carolina* (1942), *South Carolina Bird Life* (1949), *The Chat* (1937 - ), and personal letters. Unless otherwise noted, the observations are of single individuals.

Audubon took immature at Charleston, S. C.....	Winter of 1833
Cairns, Buncombe County, N. C.....	Oct. 16, 1889
Wayne, secured one at Mt. Pleasant, S. C.....	Oct. 26, 1897
Bruner, Raleigh, N. C. ....	Apr. 14, 1912
Wayne, Morganton, N. C.....	Mar. 30, 1914
Brown, R. M., Blowing Rock, N. C.....	May 15, 1917
Brown, R. M., Boone, N. C.....	May 18, 1917
Sass, Charleston, S. C.....	May 5, 1925
Sass, Oakland Plantation, S. C. ....	Mar. 4, 1926
Dingle, Middlebury Plantation, S. C.....	Oct. 20, 1928
Miss Boggs, Waynesville, N. C. ....	Dec. 1, 1931
Craighill and Benbow, Rocky Mount, N. C.....	Nov. 12, 1934
Mrs. Grinnell, Arden, N. C. ....	Nov. 17, 1934
T. C. Chatham, Elkin, N. C. ....	Fall, winter, spring 1936 to 1941—each year
Mrs. G. E. Charles, Columbia, S. C. ....	Jan. 13 and 16, 1936
Neely, Chester, S. C. ....	Mar. 28, 1937
Green, Cape Hatteras, N. C.....	Mar. 25, 1936
Dingle, Middlebury Plantation, S. C.....	Oct. 9, 1938
E. M. Hodel and L. L. Hendren, Elkin, N. C. .	Fall, winter, spring 1938 to date—each year

This is a total of only 21 observations, 8 in South Carolina and 13 in North Carolina, over a period of 105 years. Excepting the record at Elkin, N. C., there seems to be a gap in observations of White-crowned Sparrows between 1938 and 1945.

More recent records from *The Chat* and letters from observers follow. The number of individuals is shown thus: (2)

W. A. Angwin, Asheville, N. C. (2)	May 4, 1945
Mrs. G. E. Charles, Columbia, S. C.	Jan. 24 and 28, 1946
Christmas Census, Asheville, N. C.	1946
Mrs. Fryga, Gramling, S. C. (12)	1947 to 1953
Christmas Census, Asheville, N. C.	Jan. 1, 1949
Hester, Statesville, N. C.	May 7 to 10, 1950
Wearn, Charlotte, N. C.	Nov. 23, 1950 to Apr. 14, 1951
Christmas Census, Charlotte, N. C.	Dec. 30, 1950
Christmas Census, Statesville, N. C. (7)	Dec. 27, 1950
Quay, Simpson, Collettsville, N. C.	Oct. 21, 1951
Mrs. W. H. Faver, Eastover S. C.	Dec. 3, 1951
Simpson, Winston-Salem, N. C.	Nov. 29, 1951
Christmas Census, Lenoir, N. C.	Dec. 29, 1951
Mr. and Mrs. Gatewood, Winston-Salem, N. C.	Apr. 26, 1952
Spring Census, Lenoir, N. C.	May 5, 1952
Simpson, Bethania, N. C.	Nov. 8, 1952 through Dec. 20, 1952
Mrs. Bachman, Henderson, N. C. (2 to 5)	Nov. 8, 1952 to date
Mrs. M. P. Spencer, Winston-Salem, N. C.	Dec. 16, 1952
Simpson, Winston-Salem, N. C. (19)	Dec. 20, 1952 and thereafter
Christmas Census, Spartanburg, S. C. (5)	Dec. 21, 1952
Christmas Census, Winston-Salem, N. C. (3)	Dec. 20, 1952
Christmas Census, Smokey Mt. National Park, N. C. (4)	Dec. 28, 1952

The increase in observations during the preceding 9 years is conspicuous. Several locations have had these sparrows regularly. This increase over the previous period of 105 years indicates either

- (a) White-crowns have become more numerous
- (b) There are more observers
- (c) More people are beginning to recognize the White-crown.

The White-crown has been observed consistently year after year, from 1936 to the present date, in a small area near Elkin. This constant recurrence, coupled with its erratic appearance in other parts of the Carolinas, indicates that the locale in which it is found is decidedly favorable. A description follows: This is a section of the house grounds of Thurmond Chatham's 800-acre farm located in a great bend of the Yadkin River, about five miles north of Elkin. The area is about 200 yards in diameter and has its center in a semi-formal garden, consisting of boxwoods and holly. Centrally located in the garden is a well maintained feeding station. Surrounding the garden itself are plantings of Forsythia, Japonica, Privet and Multiflora Rose. At the foot of the garden is a pond and a small stream. The area thus provides open spaces of lawn for feeding and the cover of the surrounding shrubs for protection from cold and natural enemies. The feeding station provides an abundance of food. Further food is provided by the nearly open fields and the berries and buds from the shrubs. (The White-crown feeds on the buds of the Japonica).

The entire Chatham farm has been made into a wildlife preserve; all the fields being surrounded and divided by hedgerows of berry-producing shrubs. Several fields near the Yadkin River have been planted in grain for the many geese which winter here. Ducks and geese are fed on the three lakes on the property.

The White-crown is a rather shy bird, generally staying on the ground close to cover. On bright days, it will perch on the top of the shrubs, occasionally giving way to song. Immatures vastly outnumber the mature birds at Elkin.

In South Carolina, another area suitable to the White-crowned Sparrows, is at Gramling, Spartanburg County. Mrs. M. B. Fryga describes her place and experiences with White-crowns as follows:

"Our immediate surroundings seem to be very favorable to the White-crowned Sparrows. At the foot of the hill behind our house, there is a small stream which runs through an abandoned pasture. There is also some



*Two White-crowned Sparrows, photographed by Dr. M. P. Spencer at Winston-Salem, N. C., February, 1953.*

cultivated pasture around the house. These sparrows seem to feel at home in the vine thickets and cedar hedge near the house and also in the dense growth of Privet Hedge near the stream.

"It isn't uncommon to see as many as 12 or 24 of them feeding on the lawn or picking gravel in the drive. They also like to scratch under the shrubbery and in the edge of the thicket. They are usually seen on the ground. We find that the White-crowned Sparrow is very fond of cracked nuts in his diet. Our children enjoy gathering them in the fall to feed to our bird friends. Hickory nuts are their favorite (also cost us nothing), and we have already fed almost a bushel to them this winter. We spread the cracked nuts on the ground at the same places. They don't seem to care for the hanging feeder nor the bird bath. They also relish chickweed and marigold seed which is found in abundance in my flower bed, and dandelion seed on the lawn. The children playing about the yard do not seem to bother nor frighten them. The mocking bird which stays on the place all the time is their greatest competitor on the feeding grounds. We found it necessary to put the food at several places around the house so the White-crowned Sparrows could feed in peace. Other sparrows come up to feed with them but they usually dominate the feeding grounds."

Mrs. A. W. Bachman of Henderson, N. C., writes as follows: "The White-crowned Sparrows are seen in the same general territory and in approximately the same fields where they were first observed. For instance, above the Virginia-N. C. State line we rarely found one across the road from where they were first observed and the ones we saw in our own county were always on the same side of the road and on the same piece of property."

The White-crown was first found in Elkin in the fall of 1936 by R. Thurmond Chatham. He records his first observation as follows: "I first saw a White-crowned Sparrow at Roundabout (The Chatham farm) in the fall of 1936 when Dick and I were observing birds, and either he or I had them on our checklist running from 1936 through 1941. They were always abundant there and, as I had run a feeding station outside my window in Winston-Salem for many years, I immediately noticed them. Never during 20 years did I see one at Winston-Salem. They were particularly abundant two weeks ago, February 14, 1953, when I was at Roundabout, and I counted 11 on the ground at one time outside my window at the feeding station. I ran across to the south window of the



living room where I had been feeding them around the flowering quince and counted 5 more there. . . ."

From fall of 1938 on to present date, either E. M. Hodel or L. L. Hendren has observed the White-crown in the fall, winter and spring of each year at the Chatham farm. In only four other instances has this sparrow been found at Elkin other than at Roundabout Farm: (a) one in Westover Park, November 5, 1949; one in South Elkin, November 20, 1950; one at Chatham Mill, October 23, 1952, and one found at L. L. Hendren's feeding station in Elkin on October 26, 1952 on to the present date.

There was one unusual account of the White-crown outside of Roundabout Farm. On our Christmas Bird Census, December 27, 1952, we found more than 100 White-crowns in the hedgerows of a field about one mile away. We did not have time to make a more complete census there, so we have no idea how many we could have found that day. It was a bright and sunny day and the birds were perched at the tops of the shrubs; some few were singing.

We returned to this same field two weeks later, and then on three subsequent occasions, and never found a single White-crown. We concluded that we had been fortunate enough to catch a wave in migration along the Yadkin River.

A special census was taken after the first of this year at Chatham's farm to determine the relative numbers of White-crowns in that locale to the total of all other sparrows there; results are as follows:

In seven successive trips these percentages were, 62, 63, 66, 61, 69, 66, and 63.

The earliest arrival date that we have for the Elkin area is October 10, 1951; the latest departure is May 6, 1952.

#### Briefs for the Files.

**White Pelican**, 2 in surf, Folly Island, Charleston, S. C., Mar. 6, 1953, Mrs. F. H. Horlbeck. **Brown Pelican**, 60 at Cape Romain Refuge, McClellanville, S. C., Mar. 2, 1953, Paul Sturm. **Anhinga**, 1 near Orton's pond, Wilmington, N. C., Nov. 16, 1952, Mrs. Cecil Appleberry. **Blue Goose**, 1 on pond at Dr. Beale's lake, Elkin, N. C., from "early November, 1952." Still present Mar. 31, 1953, Earl M. Hodel. **Bufflehead**, 1 male at Scarborough Pond, Eastover, S. C., Mar. 4 and 6, 1953, Mrs. W. H. Faver. **Broad-winged Hawk**, 1 in northeastern part of Richland County, S. C., May 17, 1952, David Monteith. **Golden Eagle**, 1 immature at Pea Island Refuge, N. C., Feb. 22, 1953, Mr. and Mrs. I. C. Hoover (also reported by others during the winter). **Bald Eagle**, 1 adult over Wendell, N. C., Mar. 15, 1953, Eugene Hester and Donald Baker; 1, near Columbia, S. C., Jan. 9, 1953, Mrs. W. H. Faver. **Osprey**, 1 at Laurinburg, N. C., Mar. 15, 1953, E. R. Lyon; 20 soaring together near Orton, Wilmington, N. C., Nov. 16, 1952, Mrs. Cecil Appleberry. **Long-billed Curlew**, 3 at Cape Romain Refuge, McClellanville, S. C., Feb. 15, 1953, Paul Sturm. **Great Black-backed Gull**, 30 or more adult and immature on sand bar south of Wrightsville Beach, Wilmington, N. C., Mar. 23, 1953, Elmer Smalzreid, Mrs. Appleberry, et al. **Ring-billed Gull**, about 50 adult and immature feeding at power dam near Albemarle, N. C., Feb. 7, 1953, and 10 at the same place, Feb. 12, 1953, Thom W. Blair. **Common Night-hawk**, 1 at Charleston, S. C., Mar. 8, 1953, T. A. Becket. **Chimney Swift**, 3 at Spartanburg, S. C., Mar. 31, 1953, Gabriel Cannon. **Eastern Kingbird**, 1 killed by car, Lincoln County, 30 miles northwest of Charlotte, N. C., Apr. 10, 1953, B. R. Chamberlain. **Horned Lark**, 2 to 4 feeding on Lespedeza seed near Lenoir, N. C., first noted Feb. 25, 1953, still present Apr. 11, 1953, Tom Parks, Fred May, et al. **Tree Swallow**, several at Salem Lake, Winston-Salem, N. C., Mar. 28, 1953, Dr. T. W. Simpson. **Purple Martin**, several at Wilmington, N. C., Feb. 27, 1953, Mrs. H. E. Lane, Mrs. Vance Smith. **House Wren**, 1, Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 4 and 16, 1953, possibly same bird, Steve Messinger. **Bewick's Wren**, 1 at Eastover, S. C., Feb. 3, 1953, Mrs. W. H. Faver. **Hermit Thrush**, 1 singing, Spartanburg, S. C., Dec. 21, 1952, Gabriel Cannon. **Gray-checked Thrush**, 1 in



Greenfield Lake area, Wilmington, N. C., Mar. 22, 1953, Elmer Smalzreid, Mrs. Cecil Appleberry. **White-eyed Vireo**, 1 at Wilmington, N. C., Mar. 15, 1953, Clifford Comeau. **Yellow-throat**, 1 singing at Winston-Salem, N. C., Mar. 18 and 20, 1953, Dr. T. W. Simpson. **Fox Sparrow**, 1 in city garden, Charlotte, N. C., Mar. 3 and 4, 1953, Mrs. George C. Potter. **Correction:** March 1953 'Briefs' recorded **White Ibis**, 6 (1 immature) at Pinopolis. This is an error. Mr. Lemaire reported 6, all immature.—*Dept. Ed.*

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### Fall Dinner Meeting at Columbia

The 16th annual meeting of the Carolina Bird Club was held March 21, 1953 at Columbia, S. C. The Columbia Bird Club was host. Gilbert J. Bristow led an early morning field trip. During the day a business session was held and various committees met. The following papers were presented:

*The Yellow-breasted Chat in the Carolinas*, by Mrs. Matt L. Thompson, Chapel Hill, N. C.

*The White-crowned Sparrow; a Field Study*, by Earl M. Hodel and Linville Hendren, Elkin, N. C.

*A Horned Grebe and a Pileated Woodpecker*, by Douglas E. Wade, Clemson Agricultural College, Clemson, S. C.

*Observations on Hawk Migration Through the Appalachians*, by Thomas W. Simpson, M.D., Winston-Salem, N. C.

*Colony Banding*, by Harry T. Davis, State Museum, Raleigh, N. C.

*Some Boundary Extensions*, by Harold Charles Jones, East Carolina College, Greenville, N. C.

*Habitat and Territory in Macgillivray's Seaside Sparrow*, by Thomas L. Quay, North Carolina State College, Raleigh, N. C.

Late Saturday afternoon there was a conducted tour of Columbia gardens, which were at their height of bloom.

After dinner an illustrated talk on wildlife refuges of the Carolinas was given by William P. Baldwin, Regional Biologist of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service—K.C.S.

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### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please send all material for the September *Chat* to Mrs. William Faver, Eastover, S. C., excepting those items which go directly to B. R. Chamberlain at Matthews, N. C. for General Field Notes. This year "Kamefield," the Curtis farm in Hillsdale, N. Y., will claim my whole summer, the first since school days.—K.C.S.

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We record with sorrow the passing of Murray S. Tate of Greensboro, N. C., on January 14, 1953, and we extend our sympathy to Mrs. Tate. Mr. Tate was a kind man and he will be missed at CBC meetings and field trips by those of us who were fortunate enough to have known him.—B.R.C.

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Although a flightless bird, the Great Auk doubtless possessed sufficient speed both on and under the water to permit it readily to cover the thousand miles between New England and Florida. It probably wintered commonly, therefore, off the Florida coast. There, when it died, like its summer associates, the Gannets, it was washed ashore to be gathered by the Indians when they came to the beach to get coquina shells for broth. In fancy I can see a squaw crossing Neptune Trail on her return to the mainland. Under her tump-band she bends beneath a leaf-lined basket filled with shells and sand and from her hand swings the heavy body of the black and white bird with which fortune has favored her. Shells and bird went into a great clay pot together and together the remains went into the shell heap. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *Autobiography of a Bird Lover*, 1935.



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# EDITORIAL

News, Reviews, Announcements  
Authors, Members, Letters  
Items of Interest

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The handsome cover plate of the female Bob-white on her nest was made possible by the generous donation of Harry Davis of the N. C. State Museum at Raleigh. It is a point of interest that all eighteen eggs were successfully hatched.

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The new editors hope that everyone will continue to contribute his or her best efforts to *The Chat*, and they in turn will try to keep on improving its status in every way. They urge you to remember that it is always a two-way affair and that the steady progress of the bulletin along the high cultural road set depends on everybody: reader, writer, editors, all contributors and every member of CBC. Let us have your ideas and suggestions.

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Letters like this one to Tom Simpson from Alexander Sprunt, Jr., quoted below, make us proud of *The Chat* and proud of one of its best young writers.

April 6, 1953

"Dear Doctor Simpson:

I am just starting on the spring Audubon Screen Tour for six weeks in the midwest and northeast. On the train yesterday I read *The Chat* (March issue) and was greatly impressed by your splendid article on bird names. It is an excellent production—one of the most strategic and timely things the magazine has ever had. Congratulations!!

Wish more Carolinians would take in the Okeechobee (Audubon) Tours. We have just closed the 12th season, ran two station-wagons full, and left a waiting list, as usual. A great season and lots to see! The Cattle Egrets arrived in mid-February and were seen by scores of our tour members.

With best wishes and thanks for your well-done effort.

Sincerely yours,  
Alex Sprunt, Jr.

The Crescent, Charleston 50, S. C."

## New and Re-instated Members, January 23-April 1, 1953

- Barick, Frank B., 2415-15 A. Raleigh, N. C.  
 Barth, Mrs. L. B., Rt. 3, Chapel Hill, N. C.  
 Bartholomai, C. W., Box 5701, State College Station, Raleigh, N. C.  
 Beckroge, John H., 733 Abelia Rd., Columbia, S. C.  
 Bennett, G., 31 King High Ave., Wilson Heights, Ontario  
 Brown Page, C. E., Buies Creek, N. C.  
 Bryan, Thomas R., 218 Surry Ave., Elkin, N. C.  
 Burroughs, Annie G., RFD 4, Henderson, N. C.  
 Byars, Mrs. Luther P., 901 North Main St., Marion, S. C.  
 Carthedge, Mrs. J. E., 512 Grant Ave., North Augusta, S. C.  
 Clark, Betty, Box 385, Mt. Pleasant, S. C.  
 Clark, Marion, 207 Broad St., Anderson, S. C.  
 Conover, Mrs. H. L., 672 Ridgewood Rd., Oradell, N. J.  
 Cutts, Mrs. C. C., Conway, S. C.  
 Darby, Mrs. Elizabeth M., Fort Motte, S. C.  
 Darby, Mary, 361 5th St., N. W., Hickory, N. C.  
 Dieter, Caroline L., Box 326, Isle of Palms, S. C.  
 Engle, Raleigh M., 147 York St., Chester, S. C.  
 Ellis, Mrs. W. F., Rt. 2, High Point, N. C.  
 Ephland, Mrs. Guy, 494 Parkway Dr., Burlington, N. C.  
 Gregory, W. C., Rt. 1, Cary, N. C.  
 Haire, John Stokes, 428 Salisbury St., Mocksville, N. C.  
 Hartin, Mrs. S. E., 4520 Colonial Dr., Columbia, S. C.  
 Helder, Mrs. H. A., L. B. 546, Canton, N. C.  
 Hughes, Hansel L., Catawba College, Salisbury, N. C.  
 Hunter, Mrs. Clyde H., 1515 Jarvis St., Raleigh, N. C.  
 Jones, M. David, S. Second St., Smithfield, N. C.  
 Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wright, 507 Cleveland St., Raleigh, N. C.  
 Kiddee, Mrs. Walter, 56 Gates Ave., Montclair, N. J.  
 Kinard, R. E., 727 Abelia Rd., Columbia, S. C.  
 Koonce, Thalma, Apt. 3, Carolina Apts., Market St., Wilmington, N. C.  
 Langford, Mrs. Ralph W., 410 Woodlawn, Gastonia, N. C.  
 Lepper, Mrs. Lewis, 506 Dogwood Drive, Chapel Hill, N. C.  
 Lowless, Miss Angie, Rt. 1, Welford, S. C.  
 Marshall, Mrs. J. M., Conway, S. C.  
 Mouzon, Olin T., Greenwood Dr., Chapel Hill, N. C.  
 Oxford, Douglas, 2515 West Ashwood Ave., Nashville, Tenn.  
 Parrott, Mrs. G. F., 313 Moreland Rd., Willow Grove, Penna.  
 Philsen, Mrs. S. A., 107 Park Drive, Greenville, S. C.  
 Quickmire, J. Stanley, Jr., 1126 Maple Ave., Vineland, N. J.  
 Richards, Mrs. Paul H., 210 South Main St., Mocksville, N. C.  
 Robinson, Mrs. W. S. 137½ West End St., Chester, S. C.  
 Ruskin, Mrs. Sidney H., Box 812, Decatur, Ga.  
 Staples, Mrs. John A., 405 W. 7th Ave., Gastonia, N. C.  
 Stevenson, Mrs. Maye W., Box 30, Florence, S. C.  
 Suggs, Mrs. W. K., Conway, S. C.  
 Taylor, Mrs. Harry, Tryon, N. C.  
 Tuck, Mrs. C. E., 156 Spring St., West Bridgewater, Mass.  
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 Whittemore, Laura B., Box 581, Tryon, N. C.  
 Wildman, Mrs. Robert W., Gardenwall Club, 3415 Dogwood Dr., Greensboro, N. C.  
 Williams, Mrs. David M., Godwin, N. C.  
 Wrightson, Mrs. J. C. Gardenmakers Club, 614 Maple St., Spartanburg, S. C.  
 Zum Brunnen, Mrs. T. P., Box 793, Salisbury, N. C.

### SUPPORTING MEMBERS

- Sisson, Kay Curtis, 1430 Wellington Drive, Columbia, S. C.  
 Quiney, Mrs. Lyman, 9 Frank Clark Street, Sumter, S. C.

## Spring Field Trip at Brasstown

Sixty enthusiastic members of the Carolina Bird Club came away from the spring field trip held at Brasstown, N. C., on April 24-26, 1953, proclaiming it to be one of the best field trips ever attended.

Headquarters were at the John C. Campbell Folk School, a small but unique institution for helping mountain people to become proficient in their chosen fields. Wood carving is predominant. George and Marguerite Bidstrup were our gracious hosts. Lucille Gault was our very competent general chairman, to whom we are indebted for a splendid outing. Saturday field trips netted ninety species of birds, including twenty-four species of warblers and six sparrows. White-crowned Sparrows were common locally. Golden-winged Warblers, the Blue-winged Warbler, and the Alder Flycatcher were among the rarer species reported.

Rhett Chamberlain was in charge of the bird count Saturday night, after which Mrs. Bidstrup gave a brief summary of the history and functions of the Folk School. A short business session followed, during which it was decided to suggest to Governor Umstead of North Carolina that he appoint a conservationist to the State Wildlife Commission; and the CBC members should investigate in their home communities the destruction of Bluebirds which fly into stacks of tobacco barn burners and are unable to get out unless the burner lids are removed. Reports are to be sent to B. R. Chamberlain, Rt. 1, Matthews, N. C.

A collection amounting to \$25.00, donated by CBC members present, was presented to the Campbell Folk School as a token of appreciation, to aid in furthering its aims and ideals.—  
 ROBERT OVERING.



Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a full dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular .....	\$1.00	Contributing .....	\$25.00
Supporting .....	\$5.00	Affiliated Club .....	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

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# THE CHAT

*Bulletin of*



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SEPTEMBER, 1953

Number 3



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**Cover Photograph.**—Wood Thrush at nest, photographed by Jack Dermid in Wilson Co., N. C., June, 1953. The leaves of the Black-jack Oak nest-tree formed a perfect canopy over the nest.. The publication of this photograph is sponsored by Mrs. Thomas L. Quay, Raleigh, former assistant editor of *The Chat*.

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## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

As has been previously stated, one of the major benefits of bird study is the close association with others engaged in the same pursuit. At gatherings of the Carolina Bird Club we join old friends with whom we discuss with enthusiasm events which took place subsequent to the preceding meeting. This is all well and good. But all too often the planned activities at these meetings prevent us from becoming well-acquainted with newcomers or with the members who attend meetings only occasionally. It would seem a good idea for more emphasis to be placed on getting everyone better acquainted with everyone else, on learning about each other's niche in life, on becoming lifelong friends.

Sometimes, persons have attended meetings unaware, at the time, of the presence of former acquaintances or of persons with whom they have had correspondence. This has happened, and it is unfortunate, even embarrassing.

Then, too, most bird people tend to hide their lights under a bushel, and unless we hear about them from outside sources we may not ever know that Jim or Jane is an authority in some specialized field, is an author of scientific books, or is outstanding in other ways in the promotion of the appreciation and knowledge of Nature.

Many CBS members do a lot of traveling about in the Carolinas. Everywhere they go are other members. If the September **Chat** is carried along, and the list of members is referred to, it is an easy matter for the traveler to contact a fellow member who probably is anxious to share recent bird experiences—Have you stopped in to see Bill Joyner at Rocky Mount. Or Virgil Kelley at Fayetteville? Or Mrs. Faver at Eastover? The results would be rewarding.

Another benefit derived from association with fellow students of bird life is this: one sees, hears, and enjoys the birds so much more after having had stimulating experiences and discussions with "the experts." As the little French girl said, after daily watching the sunset with visitor Laredo Taft and other artists, "You know, we never had such beautiful sunsets until you came."

And so it is with birds.

—ROBERT OVERING

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# THE KITES OVER SANTEE

E. BURNHAM CHAMBERLAIN

To-day the Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) is an uncommon species in the Carolinas, and any bird student would welcome the opportunity to see one of these graceful birds of prey. Accordingly, when Robert E. Edwards of "Ardea," a few miles above McClellanville, S. C., invited Ellison A. Williams, Arthur Wilcox, and the writer, to visit him in early May, his near-guarantee of showing us a Swallow-tail brought a prompt and grateful acceptance.

Leaving Charleston at 9 A. M., May 11, we crossed the Cooper River, headed upcoast for McClellanville, "Ardea," and the Santee country. Pausing mid-way to satisfy the oil-hungry appetite of Mr. Williams' venerable, fender-rattling, but dependable Oldsmobile, we admitted, in answer to the young gas station attendant's inquiry as to whether we were going fishing, that we were bird students. To our surprise, instead of having our answer evoke the usual blank or condescending stare, we were told: "I like birds too and maybe you can tell me about a bird I've been seeing about here." The young man then described, quite accurately, a male Summer Tanager. Driving off, we felt that warm inner glow that comes with the doing of a good deed.

An hour or more after leaving home, we arrived at the Edwards' house, situated in pine and mixed woods, with nearby marshes bordering the Intracoastal Waterway. Awaiting us were Mr. Edwards and his also-competent bird-student wife. After being shown a Chuck-will's-window nesting near the house and a Willet incubating four eggs in a nest on a dike in the nearby marsh, we left under Mr. Edwards' guidance to locate the Swallow-tails. Driving the DuPre Road bordering the South Santee River, no great distance away, we paused at a number of inviting "birdy" spots by lagoon, pond, and cypress backwater. Passing historic Hampton Plantation, we entered that beautiful area wisely set aside for the preservation of the finest strain of Wild Turkeys in the entire Southeast, if not the country. Mr. Edwards is well acquainted with several members of the staff of the Francis Marion Turkey Refuge, and had pre-arranged our visit. Incidentally, we learned the present turkey population is estimated at around 2,000 birds—a wonderful inventory.

Parking our car near Refuge Headquarters, we walked for a mile or so through woods roads and faint trails shaded by moss-draped oak and pine, cypress and gum, magnolia and cherry, dogwood and jessamine, and a host of other trees, shrubs and vines. And, as we walked quietly, leaving off useless talk, three or four turkeys crossed the old road not far ahead. Certainly not an unexpected sight, for were we not on their property? And now we were in kite country, although the necessary views of the sky were limited to an occasional food-strip or natural clearing. Shortly we arrived at an ancient landing on a creek, a tributary of the Santee River. Here we could see more of the sky and here kites had been seen recently. We waited and watched thirty or more minutes—kiteless, but full of that rich entertainment freely furnished by Mockingbird and Jay, Crested and Acadian

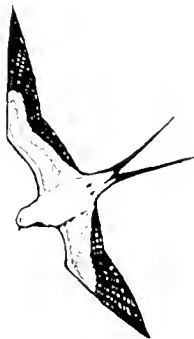


Fly-catchers, Nonpareil and Indigo Bunting, Thrasher and Wood Thrush, Titmouse and Chickadee, Carolina Wren and the similarly-songed Kentucky Warbler, Pronthonotary and Parula, Yellowthroat and Yellow-throated, Prairie and Pine, Black-throated Green and Chat and many another.

But we had come to see kites. The ninety-five species we ran up was incidental, and Mr. Edwards still had his ace up his sleeve. Retracing our steps to the car we moved several miles to another, larger stream, bridged by an old structure that had taken a severe beating from heavy lumber

Swallow-tailed Kite

SUE SALISBURY



trucks in by-gone days. Here was a first-rate spot from which to watch the sky. As we crossed the bridge and rolled to a stop on the road edge, a curious doe Deer appeared a little distance beyond us, paused a few moments, ears and tail alertly restless, and finally ambled across the road and into the fringe of woods bordering the stream, apparently convinced we were worthy of no serious attention. Nearby a small dock extended over the dark water, a cool, shaded spot. Lunch time had arrived and we could watch the skies while we were eating.

Overhead an occasional vulture and snakebird swung and soared lazily. Then a falcon, doubtless a Sparrow Hawk, passed over. And shortly a shout of "I see one" made us forget sandwiches for a few moments. But the view was distant and not satisfying. Soon another distant bird appeared, and we moved to the wider vantage point of the bridge nearby. Then the performance really started and kites began to show, swinging in wide circles, climbing high in the sky, and then dropping much lower so that we had excellent views of first one, then another, then more. How would you like to see not just one Swallow-tail, but four or five, with a Mississippi Kite thrown in for good measure? Better yet, how would you like to have three Swallow-tails and one Mississippi in your field glass at the same moment? We watched and studied the fork-tailed beauties (one's tail was quite abbreviated, one quite long) to our hearts' content, until finally, drifting and spiralling high, they faded out of sight against the bright blue sky.

We worked other nearby areas that afternoon. We looked out over the big Santee itself. From the Santee Gun Club docks, we learned that the hordes of White Ibises that frequented Blake's Reserve last year had failed to show up this season. Where have they gone? Perhaps we'll have the answer later. Then, as a fitting end to a superb day spent with congenial spirits (I speak of my colleagues), we headed for "Ardea," where Mrs. Edwards awaited with cool tea and cake.

Mr. Edwards had come through. It was fitting send-off for a Hudson's Bay trip he was soon to make. May he enjoy the birds he sees as much as we did the Santee kites.—*Charleston, S. C., 8 June, 1953.*

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**Editorial Note.**—I wish to express my appreciation to all those who have so kindly aided me in the preparation of this issue of *The Chat* in the absence of Mrs. Sisson. After the first of September, please send all material except that intended for the two departments to Mrs. Sisson at 1430 Wellington Drive, Columbia 4, S. C.—ANNIE RIVERS FAVER.

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**Nominating Committee.**—The nominating committee appointed at Brasstown on April 25 is composed of T. L. Quay, Raleigh, N. C. (chairman), Mrs. W. C. Mebane, Wilmington, N. C., Ellison Williams, Charleston, S. C., and Mrs. Lynn Gault, Brasstown, N. C. The committee solicits your early recommendations.—ROBERT OVERING.

# UPPER CURRITUCK SOUND, 1910 AND LATER

W. L. MCATEE

By Upper Currituck Sound is meant that part extending from The Narrows, just south of Poplar Branch, northward to the State Line. This body of water is 22 miles long and 10 miles wide at the maximum, much interrupted by islands, and encroached upon by marshes. When I first saw it in 1910, it was a paradise for wildlife. The water was crystal clear, supported luxuriant growths of Sago Pondweed, Wild Celery, and other plants of prime importance to waterfowl, and was fringed by marsh and shore plants providing cover and supplementary foods.

The barrier beach, sandy on the ocean side, and with many pools and mud flats bordering the Sound, was a highway for migrating shore-birds. These, with the plants, were the objects of my first study in early September 1909. The most common species were Semipalmated Plovers, and Semipalmated, Least, and Pectoral Sandpipers. Both species of Yellowlegs, Stilt Sandpiper, Black-bellied Plover, Dowitcher, and Turnstone also were taken. A single Long-billed Curlew was seen, which species has long been a rarity in the eastern United States, where I have seen only two other single birds in forty years of field observations in favorable habitats.

In November and December of the same year, waterfowl were the objective. In notes written at the time, I stated that the over-used word, "myriads," could legitimately be applied to their numbers. Hunters, placing their batteries or proceeding to their blinds, flushed the birds, which then for the most part took to sea. On the water their masses looked like low islands, and in the air their swirling numbers simulated drifting clouds. Redheads and Blackheads (or Scaups) were most abundant. The Redhead is depleted now, but then I saw flocks, with the feeding birds perhaps a rod apart, that covered square miles in a section of the Sound known as The Lump. Canvasbacks and Ruddy Ducks or Boobies also were present in considerable numbers.

Coots or Blue Peters lined the channel where they fed on Wild Celery, but occurred in large flocks elsewhere; one favorite resort bore the name of Peter's Quarter. The Marsh Hawk, which sometimes harried these birds, was called Peter Ripper. The name "Peter" has been given to the splattering Coots, and some other birds, from their apparent walking on the water.

Canada Geese occurred in flocks of a thousand or more but when undisturbed, these separated into family groups, mostly of four or five. Snow Geese in large numbers fed in marshy shallows and rested on the almost mountainous sand dunes, on the crests of which they were conspicuous but also inaccessible. Whistling Swans lay like snow banks along shallow shores, and in feeding formed yard-wide, and half that deep, funnels where with a rotary motion, they had dug out the roots and tubers of aquatic plants.

Market hunting, traditional in the region, flourished. The geese and swans were scarcely an object, but the Redhead, Canvasback, Scaups, and Ruddy Duck, having dependable selling value, were hunted for profit, by about 50 men in the Upper Sound. In their lingo, the ducks just named were "good ducks," all others "trash ducks." Hunting clubs had bought up the shores

and thus controlled almost all shooting of Mallards, Black Ducks, Widgeons and other shoal-water ducks. Only the open water was available to the natives; but they monopolized it and had the satisfaction that the club hunters, as a rule, got only what they regarded as "trash ducks."

I examined the bag at some of the clubs but found nothing rare except a male European Widgeon at Currituck Club, December 3 (not necessarily the date when shot). A few weights are worth recording. A swan, which residents thought to be about as large as they get, weighed 21, a Cygnet 16, and a Canada goose 10 pounds.

The preceding notes refer to Currituck, still at its best. By 1917, deterioration of the wildfowl food supply was evident, and all concerned became alarmed. Among theories as to the cause of the trouble, one was that swans, under continued protection, had increased to the point where they were encroaching on the food supply of the ducks. Over-population was thought to be driving them into marsh ponds where previously they had rarely been seen. But the truth was that shortage of food was the cause of the movement.

Certain heavy influxes of salt water over low stretches of the beach next were blamed for unthriftiness of the wildfowl food plants, but at length it was suspected, and finally proved, that the main source of the pollution, by sewage as well as by salt, was the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal leading from Norfolk Harbor to the northwest part of the Sound. Dredging of that Canal, part of the Inland Waterway, resulted in a continuous flow of polluted water from the Harbor, and improvement, when it did come, was from installation and operation of a lock which interrupted the flow.

From 1926 to 1935 conditions were at their worst. Midway in that period, I estimated that there were not a hundred geese or swans on Currituck where there formerly had been a thousand, and not more than one duck where there had been ten thousand in the years before pollution. The economics of the region, dependent to a considerable degree on the abundance of waterfowl, went into a decline, from which recovery has been very gradual. I am glad to be able to quote a recent favorable report from my friend Will C. Ross, known since my first visit to Upper Currituck. In January 1953, he writes: "The water is freshening and clearing up and we have more pondweed and celery than we have had in 20 years. The fish and ducks are coming back."

But what an unnecessary travail there has been. Men should desperately try to preserve, unspoiled, every significant natural resource, and nowhere is the lesson more clear than in the history of Upper Currituck Sound.—*Chapel Hill, N. C., January 28, 1953.*

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## Announcement

The Papers Committee for the 1954 Annual Meeting is anxious to include among the papers presented, two or more reports on original research by C.B.C. members. Suggested subjects: plumage, feeding habits, sleeping habits, nest construction, flight, etc. Summaries of the project should be sent to the Chairman at least 30 days before the date of the meeting. Early notice of your desire to prepare a paper will be appreciated.—B.R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Chairman.*



## BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, Department Editor

This department wishes there was space enough in our pages to include all the interesting notes and clippings we have received this summer. We appreciate your cooperation, and ask that you continue giving it. We congratulate the fifth grade pupils of Miss Irene Fleming at Wiley School, Raleigh, on their report. All of our schools can benefit as they have by obtaining the material provided for use in Junior Clubs by the National Audubon Society.—A.R.F.

### Birds in a Low Country Garden—Casual Glimpses during the month of May.—

- May 5, Carolina Wrens flying out of the garage, where their nest is placed in a roll of wire under the rafters.
- 7:30 a.m.
- 8:30 a.m. Male and female Nonpareils feeding at the window tray, except when the male is beligerently attacking his reflection in the window. During these attacks on this "rival," his mate calmly waits in the nearby oak. They seem to prefer the babychick feed (finely ground corn) to the sunflower seeds or the suet.
- 9:15 a.m. Approximately 25 or 30 Tree Swallows swarming around an old Flicker hole in a tall piling off-shore. (Our garden is on the Stono River) There must be some plan of "let the best man win," for frequently in the swarming, disappearing, reappearing flight, 2 and sometimes 3 glistening, blue-green males engage each other in tremendous power dives of attack and escape. So far, no bird has seemed to win.
- 10:30 a.m. The female Towhee is incubating four mottled eggs in the Cassina hedge near the water. I almost destroyed the nest unknowingly Saturday when pruning the hedge. But, thank goodness, she came back to it!
- 10:40 a.m. Pair of Brown Thrashers at the birdbath, one bathing while one feeds from the lump of suet just overhead. For some reason unknown to me, they deserted their nest in the Eleagnus bush on which incubation had started, and now are nesting with our next door neighbor.
- 11:00 a.m. Above mystery solved. One of the Thrashers (female, I presume) shows a dark spot on one side of her head, which at first I took to be wetness from bathing. Binoculars show it to be a deep wound—surely a narrow escape. Cat, rat, or owl, which was the nocturnal attacker?
- 12:45 p.m. Not a White-throated Sparrow have I seen today, even though there were several at the bath yesterday.
- 1:45 p.m. Sitting at my birdbath under a camouflage of an old house coat hanging from the beach hat I am wearing, I wait for
- 2:15 p.m. feathered visitors to alight on the exact spot that is in full sun-

light and also exactly twenty-two inches from my Bantam Camera Portrait lens. I hear a clear "Chicky-tucky-tuck" at my very feet, and the male Summer Tanager takes a bath not twelve inches from me! But—the bath at that point is in shadow, so I have to bear the disappointment as I watch him through the view finder, and try to be content a few minutes later with a shot of a Brown Thrasher feeding at the desired place. Slowly I am accumulating a few color records of the birds at my bath. At first, I took anything that came. Now, I am a bit choosy. A close-up of that male Tanager, however, or of either of the Nonpareils would thrill me beyond measure.

5 p.m. T'whew, t'whew, t'whew, t'whew, t'whew! Quite a disturbance in the big Live Oak. Investigation shows our pair of Towhees fighting off a persistent Blue Jay in the vicinity of their nest in the Cassina hedge. The male Towhee is spreading his tail feathers fan-wise until he appears twice his normal size, quite imposing and handsome.

5:30 p.m. No more evidence of the Tree Swallows' interest in the piling off-shore. Was it all just play?

6:15 p.m. The day's observations end with the flute-like notes of the Wood Thrush in the distance. Have been hearing their song for some time, but thus far this season, have no records of Thrushes at the bath. Last year, a pair were frequent visitors in the early morning and at late dusk, sometimes not coming in the evening until almost dark. They came to bathe. I never saw them feed.

May 8,  
7:30 a.m. Three ugly, purple, little creatures and one unhatched egg in the Towhee's nest! Very cold this morning, down to fifty-four degrees. Wish mother Towhee would hurry back to her unclothed babies.

9:00 a.m. A single Tufted Titmouse fluttering its wings outside the dining room window, and begging its reflection for something to eat.

10:45 a.m. The interrogatory note of the Orchard Oriole brings me to the window in time to see a handsome male thoroughly soaking himself in the bath. What a shot that would have made! But no sun, no camera, no photographer present, only the old house coat waving in the breeze from the stake on which it frequently hangs when it is not resting on and partially concealing me.

May 9,  
8 a.m. Tragedy. The Towhees' nest is picked clean as a whistle. Not a thing is out of order, nor is there the least sign of damage except the emptiness. Did that Blue Jay swoop down during an unguarded moment with both parents away? Did my pruning the hedge show up the nest to the vandal?

May 15,  
All Day The Carolina Chickadees and the Tufted Titmice are back again in tripled number and in full voice. Neither family nested with us this time, but they surely appreciate our coconut hanging out in the oak just over the birdpath. The hollow in the nut is filled with seeds and suet. Those babies should be the world's fattest and sleekest, if constant feeding on rich food means anything.

May 21,  
8:50 p.m. A telephone call from our next door neighbor advises us that the parent Screech Owls are feeding their young in her Mimosa tree. My husband and I join her and with the aid of flashlights we locate the babies, still in the fuzzy stage, crawling from branch to branch. In the uncertain light, it takes us some time to determine the number, but finally we glimpse 3 in a group, one parent approaching the fluttering, chattering youngsters from one direction just as the other adult takes off in the opposite direction. During the 20 to 30 minutes that the three

of us were watching, the parents several times lit on the grass just a few feet from us as they pounced on luckless frog or insect. At one feeding, we were almost certain that we identified a frog's hind leg as whatever it was quickly disappeared into the fuzzy bird's interior.

May 29,  
7:30 p.m. Today a Marsh Wren has been tinkling incessantly in the tall marsh of our waterfront, and now, in the still of the evening, similar notes come to us from the other side of the Stono, almost a mile away.

May 31,  
7:45 p.m. The chattering and the bill-clicking of the baby Owls take us to our front porch, and we get a fine view of two of them being fed by one parent, silhouetted against the western sky. We flash the light and all three disappear noiselessly into the gloom, the young birds now flying as well as their parents.—  
MRS. FRANCIS BARRINGTON, 313 Stono Drive, Riverland Terrace, Charleston, S. C., June 15, 1952.

**Random Notes from Critter Hill.**—For several summers now, I have regularly flushed a Morning Dove or two in the heavy woods that mark the course of Pewee Wash, our small rocky stream following the western edge of Critter Hill. Or so I thought. We see and hear doves so regularly on the Hill that I didn't question the wing whistle in the deeper woods. This summer I know better. It wasn't the wings of a dove at all; it was the flight song of the Acadian Flycatcher. I was surprised to make the discovery and a bit chagrined to find that I would be late in getting into print with it. Wilson recorded it in 1810 and compared the sound with "the twitterings of chickens nestling under the wings of the hen." Others have believed that it was caused by the wings of the bird. In the late 1880's Brewster satisfied himself that it was the vocal and I have no doubt that he was correct. Certainly the sounds continue, at least briefly, after the bird settles on its perch. Furthermore, I hear it clearly over distances in the order of 50 to 75 feet, which seems much beyond the power of such small wings. So far, it has accompanied only the flights caused by my first appearances in the woods, so there may be a "surprise" association. Is it produced by both sexes? I have a lot to learn about the flight song of this little *Empidonax*, or Gnat-king.

On May 10, 1953, while in our yard with my son Norman, on a drain clearing project, we were interrupted by scolding notes that sounded much like wrens over in the big hickory tree to the east of the house. Investigation showed a pair of Yellow-throated Vireos excited by the presence of a small snake that lay closely along a lower limb of the tree. Apparently, the snake had reached the limb by way of a small cedar into which it dipped. Farther out, on an adjacent limb, the Vireo's nest was located. The birds moved about from perch to perch, five to ten feet from the snake. Occasionally one of them would swoop to within a few inches of it with a harsh cry. During these attacks the snake remained motionless. We dislodged it with a pole and saw that it resembled a young Rat Snake. Norman placed a stick across its neck to capture it for full identification. At that point my attention was drawn to one of the Vireos. It had dropped down beside us and was watching every detail of the capture from an open perch about four feet away. It kept an eye "glued" on the snake, turning its head first to one side and then to the other, and left only when we stood up and walked away. The snake proved to be a Gray Rat Snake. It was 25 inches long. We released it in our trash disposal gulley.

As for the Vireo nest, three young left it on May 18, and for the next two or three days added their strong one-note cry to the other natural noises on our Hill.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C. June 9, 1953.*  
**Correction:**—In the last item in this department in the June issue, the name of the vine should have been *Yellow Bignonia*. A. R. F.

# THE AMERICAN WOODCOCK IN NORTH CAROLINA<sup>1</sup>

T. STUART CRITCHER AND T. L. QUAY

The American Woodcock (*Philohela minor* Gmelin) is a characteristic and well-adapted game bird of the eastern United States and Canada. It breeds from New Brunswick and Southern Ontario to Louisiana and Florida, but is commonest in summer in southeastern Canada and north-eastern United States. The wintering population is concentrated largely in Louisiana and eastern Mississippi, with some birds found regularly from southeastern Virginia and southern Missouri to the Gulf Coasts of Texas and Florida. The Woodcock formerly existed in numbers several times greater than at present, having been decimated during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries by heavy shooting at all seasons, uncontrolled fires on agricultural and forest lands, and occasional adverse weather conditions.

Secretive habits and numerical scarcity cause Woodcock to be poorly known in North Carolina. They inhabit river bottoms, swamp edges, stream sides, boggy thickets, spring sites, moist hillsides, and even upland pastures and meadows, wherever the ground is soft and earthworms are plentiful. Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley (1942:132) gives the range as "whole State at all seasons." Mendall and Aldous (1943:35) say, "Uncommon summer resident throughout the state. Fairly common migrant. Usually an uncommon winter resident."

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<sup>1</sup> This paper is prepared from information collected under North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission projects created by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act. The senior author wishes to acknowledge that all the field census data presented were gathered by the personnel mentioned herein.





Breeding records for North Carolina are few. Pettingill, in his monograph on the American Woodcock (1936:238), lists a record by W. H. Bernard of young Woodcock six weeks old on March 21, 1876, in Dublin (Duplin?—TLQ) Co. C. S. Brimley (1940:25) called the Woodcock a resident of Buncombe Co., breeding in April; this was based primarily on the records of J. S. Cairns (1902) during 1885-1895. Smithwick (1897, 1952a:94) found three nests in Bertie Co.—March 3, 1890; March 1, 1891; and March 12, 1893; each nest contained the typical four, buff-colored, spotted eggs and was in a low marshy place on the sides of a big swamp (Smithwick, 1952b). Bent (1927) lists “Walke” (?—TLQ) and “New Bern” as specific breeding localities. C. S. Brimley (1930:77) gives egg dates for Raleigh as “March 3 to April 11.” Pettingill (1936:238) gives the average of 16 of Brimley’s Raleigh egg records as March 24. Skinner (1928:85), for the Sandhills region, says, “. . . the eggs are laid as early in some cases as the latter part of February; and I have seen young birds as early as the first week in April.” Burleigh (Pettingill, 1936:238) found a nest with four eggs at Asheville on April 27, 1931. At Charlotte, Mrs. Clarkson (1944:6) records, “young out of nest by April 13.” In April 1949 the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission sent out a survey-type questionnaire on the general status of Woodcock in the State. Two positive breeding records were returned. Mr. Fred Caley of Statesville reported that nesting had been observed during the “latter part of April and first of May” and that young birds had been seen “about the last of May.” A. L. Mills, Jr., also of Statesville, replied, “Found one nest with young about 1930. Last of February or first of March. Snow on ground.”

*Protective coloring makes nesting woodcocks almost impossible to see—but easy to photograph.*

*Baby woodcocks are brooded under the parent’s warm feathers for several days after hatching.*

*Photos courtesy U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service*



The female Woodcock incubates the eggs and raises the young without any assistance from the male, and in an area usually near to, but separate from, the male's domains. The male has two territories, one a daytime feeding grounds and the other a singing grounds, again usually contiguous to or near each other. The singing grounds is a small clearing in or at the edge of suitable deciduous or mixed woodland habitat, the whole or a part of a field, or even a roadbed. Courtship and mating take place solely on the singing grounds, from which the male performs at dusk and dawn a series of beautiful and intricate song-flights. One of the most vivid descriptions is that of Brewster, as quoted by Mendall and Aldous (1943: 57):

The manner in which the song-flight was conducted varied only slightly at different times or with different performances. One and all of these [male woodcock] were accustomed to first soar spirally to a height of two or three hundred feet, and then descend earthwards by a series of zig-zag swoops made with arrow-like speed, and accompanied by successive outbursts of ecstatic, liquid, gushing song which ended abruptly when the bird finally got within thirty or fifty feet of the ground, and pitched down to it on half-closed wings.

The ascent is accompanied by melodious trilling or whistling, usually considered to be made by the wings. On the ground, before, after, and between flights, repeated nasal *peent* notes are given, sounding much like a Night-hawk.

It has been learned that the only adequate census technique for Woodcock centers around the courtship performance. In January 1950 the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission was requested to participate in a cooperative investigation of Woodcock populations, by regular counts on singing grounds along selected routes. This investigation was initiated by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is being coordinated by Dr. P. F. English, at the Pennsylvania Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, for Delaware, Maryland,



*Nest with 4 eggs, Hoke Co., N. C., March 12, 1951. This nest, on an oak hillside bordering a swamp, was discovered by timber cutters who worked within one yard of it. Three of the eggs hatched on March 26.*

*Photo by Jack Dermid. Courtesy North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.*

*Young woodcock in  
North west River  
marsh, Currituck  
Co., N. C., May 9,  
1951.*

*Photo by Ken Wilson.  
Courtesy N. C. Wildlife  
Resources Commission.*



North Carolina, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Other groups of states are conducting similar studies.

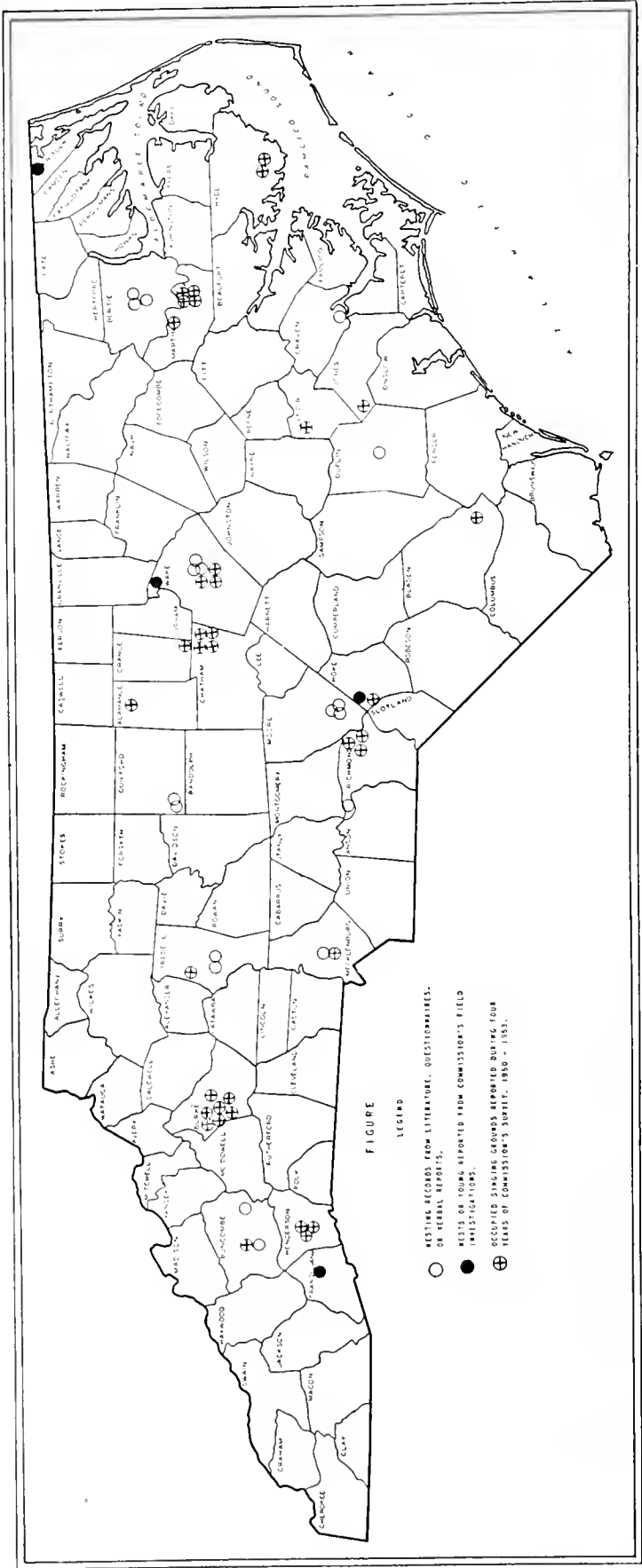
The results of the Wildlife Commission's 1950-53 spring singing-ground censuses are listed below, with the name of the District Biologist or observer first, county and location next, and then the number of singing males for each census date. Nesting records are included, and marked with an asterisk (\*).

#### 1950 Census

- \*1. Malcolm Edwards. Transylvania Co. One nest, one mile above the Davidson River Campground on the Pisgah Game Preserve; two of the four eggs hatched between April 24 and April 27.
2. T. R. Mitchell. Iredell Co., near Loray. April 7—1.
- \*3. David C. Thornton. Guilford Co. The caretaker of the High Point City Lake has found Woodcock breeding regularly in the wooded areas near the head of the lake, with both nests and young birds seen there in the past, and two broods of young seen last year (1949).
- \*4. David L. Taylor. Richmond Co. One nest found by Max Capel, wildlife protector, five miles west of Mangrum along the Pee Dee River; exact date not given.
5. Charles B. Woodhouse. Chatham Co., on State College's New Hope Farm. March 9—1.
6. Donald Allison. Wake Co., one mile northwest of Raleigh. March 10—3.
7. Robert B. Hazel. Jones Co., about one mile from Pleasant Hill along U. S. Highway 258. March 6 and 27—1 each, April 7—1.
8. Hazel. Lenoir Co., near Falling Creek and Institute. March 21 and 31—2 each.
9. Ben H. James. Martin Co., along Conoho River Road, near Williamston. March 27—1.
10. G. E. Beal. Nash Co. At Red Oak some years ago, in early January while snow was on the ground, a female was taken which was carrying internally an egg with a hard shell.
11. L. B. Tunnel. Hyde Co., along U. S. Highway 264 between Swindell's Fork and New Holland. Song-flights in February.

#### 1951 Census

- \*1. Taylor. Hoke Co. One nest, with 3 of the 4 eggs hatched, on March 26, Carl Riley's farm at Montrose.
- \*2. Hayden W. Olds. Wake Co. One adult with brood of 2 young about 2 days old. March 30, U. S. Highway 15-A one mile north of Wake Forest-Durham Road junction.
3. Rex L. Bird. Henderson Co. March 7—7, March 14—6, March 16—8, April 10—5, April 13—5, April 20—4, April 27—3; these were on two areas within the city limits of Hendersonville.
4. Hazel. Burke Co. Four different singing grounds, near Morganton and Glenn Alpine. Area 1: Feb. 12 to March 18—2 each check. Area 2: Feb. 19—8, March 1—4, March 29—1. Area 3: March 3 and 5—2 each. Area 4: Feb. 15 and March 2—4 each.



5. Frank Barick. Buncombe Co., few miles south of Asheville on N. C. Highway 191. Feb. 22—1, Feb. 28—6, March 9—4.
6. Taylor. Richmond Co., on the Jackson Springs Road 9 miles from Hoffman. April 4 and 21—1 each.
7. Thornton. Chatham Co. New Hope Farm Feb. 22—4, Feb. 28—3, March 9—4; Thornton also reported that the caretaker on the farm had noted the singing and flight activities since shortly after Christmas, 1950. Near Chapel Hill: Feb. 27—2, March 6—2.
8. Walter E. Price. Bladen Co., near Carvers. During last week in Jan.—1 each night. None found on several other trips in Bladen and New Hanover Counties.
9. James. Martin Co., Conoho Farm near Williamston. Feb. 2—5, Feb. 9—11, Feb. 13—10, Feb. 19—12, Feb. 26—11, March 2—7; this census route, as the others, was approximately one mile long, so averaged 9 singing males per mile of census, which was unusually high.

### 1952 Census

- \*1. Kenneth A. Wilson. Currituck Co. At least one brood in the fresh-water marshes along the Northwest River about two miles east of Moyock. An adult and two young in natal down on May 5; another, or the same, adult and four young on May 9, and a similar group 2½ hours later one-fourth of a mile distant. Wilson suggested these were all the same family group.
2. Bird. Henderson Co. Feb. 11—1, Feb. 18—2, Feb. 26—3, March 3 and 10—3 each.
3. E. R. Smith. Burke Co. Feb. 20—1, Feb. 24—1, Feb. 29—3, March 5—1, March 25—3, April 2—1, May 1—1.
4. D. J. Hankla. Alamance Co., near Union Ridge. Feb. 16—1.
5. Hankla. Chatham Co., New Hope Farm. Feb. 15—4, March 10—2.
6. Taylor. Richmond Co., 6 miles north of Hoffman on the McLaurin property. March 1—2, March 7—1, March 21—1.
7. Woodhouse. Wake Co., at Holly Springs. Feb. 21—1, March 6 and 9—1 each.
8. Hazel. Wake Co., two miles south of Raleigh. First week of Feb.—1 each night, Feb. 20—1.
9. James. Martin Co. The Conoho Farm was flooded and inaccessible this spring. Near Hamilton: March 6—1.
10. B. R. Chamberlain (1952:25) and Norman Chamberlain. Mecklenburg Co. On the evenings of Jan. 1—4, and the morning of Jan. 5, heard one male in song-flights at Matthews, near Charlotte. This observation was not a part of the Wildlife Commission's survey.

### 1953 Census

1. Bird. Henderson Co. Feb. 10—3, Feb. 19—2, Feb. 25—6, March 5—3, March 10—6, March 19—4, March 24—5, April 1—3, April 9—3, April 17—3.
2. Smith. Burke Co. Jan. 29—2, March 2—1, March 9—3, March 19—1, March 31—2, April 7—1.
3. Taylor. Richmond Co. Feb. 19—1.
4. Hankla. Chatham Co., on New Hope Farm. Censuses started in Oct. 1952. Oct. 23—1, none on November 13. [Pettingill (1936:303) cites several instances of song-flights during the fall migration period; these are only temporary and do not indicate mating—TLQ]. Jan. 8—2, Jan. 20—10, Feb. 23 and March 10—9 each.
5. Hazel. Wake Co., 1 mile south of Raleigh. Dec. 19, 1952—1; Jan. 4 to Feb. 7—1 regularly on warm nights, presumably the same individual.
6. James. Martin Co. Conoho Farm: March 9—3. Near Hamilton: Feb. 5 and 23—1 each.

The singing grounds survey secured records of singing males, nests, or young of Woodcock in nineteen widely-scattered counties. Breeding records from the literature add four more counties. (See Figure 1). These known instances of courtship and nesting are spread rather evenly over the State, and tend to confirm the general belief expressed by previous writers that the American Woodcock breeds throughout North Carolina, probably in every county.

Plotting of the approximately 300 individual "woodcock-night" records accumulated during the four years of the spring censuses reveals that, while

song-flights began in early January and continued into May, the peak of singing occurred during late February and early March. The few nesting records available indicate the the peak of egg-laying is in March in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont, and April in the mountains. Unfortunately, it cannot be assumed in North Carolina that each singing male represents a potential nesting pair, especially in the early part of the season. Careful studies in Illinois showed that, "American Woodcocks may become temporarily established on territories during the period of spring migration" (Pitelka, 1943:113). After much field study in New England, and review of the literature for elsewhere, Mendall and Aldous (1943:192-193) concluded that, "Many birds [Woodcock] engage in the courtship activities while migrating north and the instinct persists for a month or more after the breeding grounds have been reached." This situation points to a need in North Carolina for some quantitative studies on selected areas of actual nesting populations in relation to associated singing ground activities.

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**Membership.**—Mr. J. Weston Clinard, 563 Ninth St., Hickory, N. C., is chairman of the membership committee for 1953-54, and welcomes your whole-hearted support and cooperation. *If every member gets a member, think how we'll grow!*—ROBERT OVERING.



## GENERAL FIELD NOTES

*Advisory Council:* E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

*Department Editor:* B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

The rapidly increasing volume of contributions to General Field Notes is most heartening. Acknowledgement is becoming a real problem. Acceptable material of similar importance will, in general, be used in the order in which it is received.

**Red-necked Grebe near Wilmington.**—Early on the morning of April 24, 1953, I noticed a motion in the water on the opposite bank of the river in front of Dr. Mebane's house on Harbor Island. Immediately focusing the 30-power scope on the spot, from the second story porch about 100 yards distant, I picked up a grebe or loon swimming quite rapidly parallel to the bank, almost submerged and with head and neck outstretched in a reptilian fashion. It finally brought up its head and neck, showing a straight sharp bill and rufous-red wash along the sides of the neck. The general coloration aside from the neck was gray and white, darkest on the head and back. The bird was half again as large as the Horned Grebe seen later in the day, and almost the same size as the Red-breasted Mergansers observed about the same time. The female mergansers were of the same general coloration as the bird seen, but clearly distinguishable as far as other characteristics went. The bill of this bird was not upturned and it was not as large as the usual Red-throated Loon. It was not seen after the first period of observation. I submit this as a sight record of the Red-necked Grebe (*Colymbus grisegena*) at Harbor Island.—THOMAS W. SIMPSON, M.D.

**White Pelicans at Lake Junaluska, Haywood Co., N. C.**—At about dusk on May 26, 1953, A. R. Phillips and some boys who were mowing his lawn saw seven White Pelicans (*Pelecomus erythrohymchos*) fly in and settle on Lake Junaluska. Dr. and Mrs. Elmer T. Clark were called to witness the sight and Mrs. Clark passed the news to me on the night of the 27th. When I arrived on the morning of the 28th, four of the pelicans had departed. The remaining three were sitting in shallow water, apparently motionless. Late that afternoon I saw them swimming about and feeding, apparently on fish. They would dip their huge bills deep into the water, then raise them and stretch their necks, at which time the yellow throat-

pouch was very evident. These three birds remained at the lake until May 30th. Throughout their stay they kept to the upper, shallower end of the lake, which is grown up in cat-tails and rushes, but which still contains about thirty acres of open water. Mrs. Clark, who frequently saw the pelicans feeding, resting, and in flight, believes that they spent the nights on a small island of cat-tails and rushes.

The seven pelicans came at the time when tornadoes were sweeping the country, and it is my opinion that they were blown off course and came in for a few days of rest. Lake Junaluska, just west of Asheville, is well up in the Appalachians. A conveniently located bench mark, some fifty feet above the lake, places the elevation there at 2,612.80 feet.—SARAH LESLEY, *Lochalm, Lake Junaluska, N. C.*

**Frigate-bird on the North Carolina Coast.**—An adult female Magnificent Frigate-bird (*Fregata magnificens*) was seen near Beaufort, N. C., on the morning of May 1, 1953. The bird was flying eastward on a strong southwest wind. With me were Dr. T. L. Quay and several fellow-members of an animal ecology class of N. C. State College. Several days of thunder showers and squalls preceded the observation.—DAVID A. ADAMS, *Raleigh, N. C.*

**The White-tailed Kite near Clemson, South Carolina.**—On June 6, 1952, about 11 miles south of Clemson, South Carolina, on U. S. Highway 76, en route to Anderson, I spotted a hawk, unfamiliar to me, hovering to a landing in a small woodland clearing along the roadside. I immediately stopped and backed up. When I stopped, the hawk arose and flew over me at not more than twenty feet, enabling me to obtain an excellent view of its shape, color pattern, and flight. The peculiar rocking flight (described by some observers as "gull-like"), the whitish underparts, the falcon-like wings with grayish patches, and the long tail, led me to believe that I had seen a White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*). Although I have seen both the Swallow-tailed Kite and the Mississippi Kite, this was the first time I had seen the White-tailed Kite. On May 18, 1953, three miles north of Clemson, on U. S. Highway 76 (a route I travel very frequently), I saw another hawk which I have decided was the White-tailed Kite. I saw this bird fly over the highway, and watched it for about a half-minute while it coursed over a plowed field and went out of sight behind a hill. The flight was a "rolling" or "rocking" one; the tail was long, the wings were falcon-shaped and marked with dark gray toward the fore-wings, and the underparts of the body were whitish. In both cases, the kites were seen in side and back lighting, with clear sky on June 6, 1952, and partly overcast sky on May 18, 1953. Both birds were seen at about 11 o'clock in the morning. The hawk seen on May 18 was at one time within 50 feet of me. Early on the morning of May 18, while running a Mourning Dove twenty-mile route, I had seen a Marsh Hawk and a Cooper's Hawk, both in flight. I have been making observations on hawks for over 20 years, and have made protracted studies of the Peregrine Falcon. Furthermore, I am fully aware of the folly of rushing certain types of "sight records" into print, and know that the published records on the White-tailed Kite are rare for South Carolina (see Sprunt and Chamberlain, *South Carolina Bird Life*, pp. 152-3). I know of no unpublished records for this Kite from the Clemson or Piedmont sections of South Carolina. I have brought these two sight records in print in hopes that other observers will be on the watch and bring to print additional observations, when such are made. It seems almost unnecessary to add that the thought, "this is a beautiful bird," entered my mind immediately on the two occasions when I saw the White-tailed Kite.—DOUGLAS E. WADE, *Clemson College, S. C., May 18, 1953.*

**Nesting Data on the Killdeer.**—An examination of *South Carolina Bird Life* gives a nesting date for the Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) on May 25.



Similar examination of *Birds of North Carolina* gives the nesting months in North Carolina as April, May, and June.

During the past several years there has been evidence in the Carolinas of earlier nesting of the Killdeer. A summary of this evidence follows:

March 15, 1948, nest with 4 eggs, Chapel Hill, N. C. (*Chat*, 12:53).

April 18, 1950, downy young, Lexington County, S. C. (*Chat*, 14:42).

March 28, 1952, nest with 3 eggs, Lexington County, S. C. (*Chat*, 16:102).

March 7, 1953, nest with 4 eggs, Chapel Hill, N. C.—Dr. Roy M. Brown, who found this nest, writes that the Killdeer “. . . regularly begins nesting here early in March.”

March 10, 1953, nest with 4 eggs, Raleigh, N. C.—Robert Conover, who reported the nest writes that it was built on a small pile of rubble and was merely some wood shavings with a small depression in them. Daily observations were made from March 11 to April 4. On April 6, neither eggs nor young birds could be found. (Bent, in *Life Histories of North American Shore Birds* gives incubation periods from 24 to 28 days.) From March 10 to April 4, inclusive, there are 26 days. Since Killdeers are precocial birds, it is safe to assume that the eggs had hatched and that both the parents and young had departed.

March 14, 1953, nest with 4 eggs, Lexington County, S. C. I found this nest only a few yards from the nest of March 28, 1952, mentioned above. By April 4, the young had hatched and were covered with pin feathers. I visited their territory again on April 25 and found the young well feathered and able to fly feebly.

April 3, 1953, nest with 4 eggs, Johnston County, N. C. The finder of the nest, Don Baker, reports that the nest was moved a short distance to prevent destruction when the field was plowed. The parent bird stayed close-by until the transfer had been completed and then returned to the nest. The nest was empty on the 4th, and young were found on the 5th.

A letter from Dr. J. J. Murray, of Lexington, Virginia, cites instances of nests in that state as early as March 17 (1949) Similar instances of early nesting have been recorded in Maryland.

Why, here in the Carolinas, are early nests just being found? Should it be assumed that Killdeers are nesting earlier now than in previous years—or should we wonder if it was not the lack of observers in the interior of the states a few decades ago that has caused an error in our conclusions? Until the advent of ornithology as a popular hobby, most of the ornithological work done in the Carolinas was done in the coastal areas of the states where the Killdeer is not a common breeder.

In *A Check-list of the Birds of Virginia*, Dr. J. J. Murray gives evidence that the Killdeer may produce two broods; therefore, some of the late records for the Carolinas may have been second nestings.—DAVID MONTEITH, Columbia, S. C., June 12, 1953.

**Pectoral Sandpiper at Aiken, S. C.**—On April 2, 1953, during the Aiken spring count, I noted a Pectoral Sandpiper (*Erolia melanotos*) on a small rain-pond located on the H. Coward farm about one-half mile south of Aiken. This pond was situated in the center of an oat field, and was about an acre in size. A number of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Common Snipe, a pair of Shovellers, and American Widgeon also were found visiting this shallow pond. The Pectoral Sandpiper was rather tame, and was watched at close range through a 20X 'scope. It was compared in size with nearby Lesser Yellowlegs. The following day a friend and I again visited the pond. This time, however, we found two Pectoral Sandpipers; the second of which presumably dropped in during the night. Pectoral Sandpipers are unusual in this area in the spring, and these were the first I have seen around Aiken. Rain ponds of the type on which these birds were observed are important as resting places for migrating waterbirds through an area such as Aiken with comparatively few natural stop-overs, although these ponds last only as long as rain continues regularly.—WILLIAM POST, JR.

**Glaucous Gull (?) at Oregon Inlet, N. C.**—Recent letters from James K. Meritt, Falls Church, Virginia, contribute the following: "On the afternoon of April 30, 1953, my wife and I spent about an hour birding at Oregon Inlet, N. C. We noticed there a pair of Surf Scooters just offshore, an adult Gannet passing, and several other species. . . . I also saw an absolutely pure white gull pass over with some ten or twelve immature Herring Gulls. I did not see the bird at rest, but I had a fairly close view in excellent light as it passed. There was no semblance of any black wing tips. The bird was the size of the immature Herring Gulls with which it was associated. It showed no different flight mannerisms from the Herring Gulls' flight. . . . I am well aware of the fact that the Glaucous Gull is an extremely rare bird in North Carolina. . . . I have never before, to my knowledge, seen a Glaucous Gull, and so I do not have past experience with this species to call on. I have considered Iceland Gull more remote because of latitude and season."

Mr. Meritt concurs in our listing his identification as most probably a Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*), based upon season. Referral of this item to our advisory council drew the following comment from E. B. Chamberlain: ". . . the observation at Oregon Inlet of April 30, of a white winged gull can be set down as that, and nothing more, in my opinion. I cannot separate the Glaucous and Iceland Gulls in the field. As to probabilities, it is true that the Glaucous has been recorded much more frequently than the Iceland, but both birds have ranged as far south as Georgia, where Ivan Tomkins has taken both near Savannah. . . . had the bird seen by Mr. Meritt appeared much larger than the Herring Gulls with it, I believe he might be justified in calling it a Glaucous. As it was, it could have been either species."

In view of the foregoing it is interesting to note that Tomkins has taken, at Savannah, Ga., one Iceland Gull (Feb. 13, 1941), and four Glaucous Gulls (Feb. 28, 1931; April 14, 1931; Feb. 14, 1935; and May 30, 1951). These are recorded in *The Oriole*. A South Carolina specimen of Glaucous Gull was taken at Charleston by E. B. Chamberlain, Nov. 24, 1947 (*South Carolina Bird Life*, 1949)—*Dept. Ed.*

**Short-eared Owls at the Santee National Wildlife Refuge, Summerton, S. C.**—The winter of 1952-53 produced an unusual number of Short-eared Owls at the Santee Refuge. From Nov. 26, 1952, through Feb. 12, 1953, this species was observed on four separate occasions, with up to seven birds being seen at one time. Although I have spent the last three winters at Summerton, the past winter was the first time that the Short-eared Owl was observed here by me. All observations were made at the Bluff Land section of the refuge; a farming unit of approximately 300 acres, when the Santee-Cooper reservoir is full (Bluff Land is a peninsula in the reservoir). Oddly enough, all observations of the owls were made at approximately the same spot; a grass-sedge area of about one-half acre on the drawdown slope of the reservoir which is subject to flooding at high water levels.

The numbers of birds and dates of observations were as follows: Nov. 26, 1952, 3; Jan. 15, 1953, 7; Feb. 4, 1953, 2; Feb. 12, 1953, 1. The birds always were reluctant to leave the ground, amid the brown, dead vegetation, whenever I approached, and sometimes would remain on the ground until almost walked upon! Usually, after being flushed from the ground, the owls would fly a hundred feet or so and then drop back into the grass again where they were effectively camouflaged. On one occasion, one owl perched on a dead stub a few feet above the ground, after being flushed, while the others circled overhead a few minutes before alighting on the ground a short distance away.

These inland observations are of added interest because *South Carolina Bird Life* states that winter observations of the Short-eared Owl are much commoner in the coastal region than inland.—ROBERT J. LEMAIRE, *Santee National Wildlife Refuge, Summerton, S. C.*

**Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in the Carolinas.**—Two South Carolina Records (1952) and two North Carolina records (1953) for the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) are reported herewith. The delayed reporting of the former is due largely to our desire for more detailed information on these rare finds. The greatly elongated tail of this flycatcher should brand it unmistakably. Two of the observations were made by persons with much interest but with limited field experience. Fortunately, one record in each state was made by competent field people.

On July 7, 1952, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher appeared on the Santee National Wildlife Refuge at Summerton, S. C. This bird was first seen by E. F. Holland, Refuge Manager, at about 10:00 a.m. Robert J. Lemaire, Assistant Manager of the refuge, who reported it, saw it thirty minutes later and watched it for a period of about fifteen minutes before it left. The bird was seen in the Bluff Land section of the refuge.

The second of the South Carolina reports is of an observation that actually preceded the Summerton record. On June 16, 1952, Mrs. Clyde Moses saw a bird at the Sampit bridge near Georgetown. Mrs. Moses and her sister, Mrs. Lofton, have identified this bird as a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher to the satisfaction of Mrs. G. E. Charles, long a South Carolina reporter for Audubon Field Notes. The report was made without knowledge of the Summerton record. The bird was seen in flight at close range.

The first of the North Carolina reports is from Southern Pines. Miss Ethel M. Wotton of the Southern Pines Bird Club, writes that a bird perched on the feeding tray of Miss Vera Chase of that community on April 6, 1953. It was seen perched and in flight by C. B. Chase, who described it as being grey and white-grey underneath, pink on the sides and with a very long, forked tail that hung way down. It jerked its head forward, giving a short, harsh note. The bird remained on the tray with no attempt to eat for a long time, permitting a lengthy observation from a distance of ten feet. It finally was driven away by a Mockingbird. In a telephone conversation with Miss Vera Chase, we learned that this bird, or a similar one, was seen near U. S. Highway 1, approximately a mile to the north, some two weeks prior to April 6.

The second of the N. C. reports is from Joe Jones of Chapel Hill. The details of his observation were covered at length in the *Chapel Hill Weekly* of June 19, 1953, and sent to us by Mr. Jones. The account follows, in part:

"A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, believed to be the only one ever reported in North Carolina, was seen here last Friday, June 12, on the University's Finley golf course. It was observed that morning by Ed Kenny, the course pro, who saw it perched on a low wire just outside the front windows of the clubhouse. . . . It was first identified that afternoon when Joe Jones . . . came up to the 10th tee to drive off. It was in a small dead tree near the tee. Just then the bird left its perch to glide out after a passing insect. As it did so it spread its tail, which then resembled the half-open blades of an unusually long and slended pair of shears. Mr. Jones knew at once that he was looking at a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. (He) . . . went to the clubhouse and telephoned the news to other bird enthusiasts. . . . This group, who followed the flycatcher from . . . tee to fairway to tee, until it finally took off, was composed of Dr. W. L. Engels, zoology professor at the University, and Mrs. Engels, Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Sorgenfrey of Glen Lennox, Mrs. Matt Thompson and Mrs. A. K. King and Mrs. King's daughter (all of Chapel Hill)." The paper also included reference to the fact that Mr. Jones had had the distinction of reporting the first Vermillion Flycatcher recorded in the state of Georgia. That bird was seen by Mr. Jones and his brother, Charles M. Jones, near Albany, Dec. 31, 1949.—*Dept. Ed.*

**Horned Larks: Range Extension.**—Ridgeway, writing in 1907, gave "eastern Kansas, southern Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York (including Long Island)" as the southern extremities of the breeding range of the Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*). Present day records show southern nesting outposts extending into mid-Georgia.

In the 1953 revision of the *Check-List of Birds of Virginia*, Murray states that, "This bird probably now breeds throughout the State." It appears that we may be able within a few more years to make a similar statement for North Carolina. Our 1953 reports add Blowing Rock, Chapel Hill, and Lenoir to our list of nesting localities, with continuing reports from Asheville, N. C., and Columbia, S. C.

At Thunder Hill, near Blowing Rock, Mrs. R. T. Greer, Mrs. Fred May, and Tom Parks observed a pair of Horned Larks with grown young, June 1st. Mr. Parks and the Greers watched very young larks being fed May 29th, a few miles south of Lenoir, N. C. At Chapel Hill, two nests, located at the University Airport, were reported by Roy T. Brown. The first one, found April 10, contained well-fledged young. Dr. Brown was told that two of the brood had disappeared while quite young. The second nest, located April 17, with four eggs, contained a fifth on the 18th. Four young from this second nest disappeared following a heavy rain; one apparently left under its own power. It was last seen May 8, twenty days after incubation began. This is a short period, but long enough in view of the fact that this species leaves the nest when ten days old, and some five days before it is able to fly (Bent: *Life Histories*, 1942). That would allow an incubation period of ten days for the last egg laid.

The additional records from Asheville, N. C., come from the note book of Miss Odessa C. Chambers in recent correspondence:

- 1945. First nest found in March. Contained 4 eggs. Location of this nest and all of the following was at the Asheville-Hendersonville Airport. A protecting flag had been placed nearby by an airport attendant.
- 1947. Feb. 23. Seven larks seen and flight song heard. No nest located. March 11, nest with 2 eggs; March 20, adult feeding 3 young; March 30, adult feeding 1 well-developed young. July 14, saw ten larks and heard flight song.
- 1948. March 26, three larks. Heard flight song. April 4, adults feeding 1 young.
- 1950. April 9, nest and 3 young.
- 1953. April 13, one young being fed. April 22, one young being fed.

At Columbia, S. C., April 15 through May 20, 1953, J. H. Fowles, Jr., and Mrs. Clyde Sisson followed the development of a brood of three young.

Other accounts of Horned Larks nesting in the Carolinas will be found in *The Chat* 15:48, 80, 1951.—*Dept. Ed.*

**Brewer's Blackbirds in Spartanburg County, S. C.**—On the morning of April 21, 1953, Ellison Williams and I were out on a morning's bird trip. At Gramling we saw eight to ten White-crowned Sparrows and my only flock of Bobolinks for the spring migration, which is rather less than usual. We rode out to Emerald Bar-S Farms, some three miles east of Landrum to see Grasshopper Sparrows which we found and heard singing. On our way back, as we were passing one of the barns, we saw two blackbirds sunning on the fence that looked just a bit different from our usual birds. When we were 30-40 feet distant Ellison stopped the car and for the next twenty minutes we both watched them through our binoculars. I mentioned that some time ago Alex Sprunt had told me to watch for Brewer's Blackbirds in my territory. Using this suggestion, we checked and re-checked with Peterson's guide until we both were satisfied with what we saw. Then we found a female just over in the lot on the ground. She had dark eyes. The eyes of the males were light. Both of us added Brewer's Blackbirds to our life lists.—GABRIEL CANNON, *Spartanburg, S. C.*

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Wilmington, N. C.**—On the morning of April 26, 1953, at about 6:00 a.m., I observed an adult male Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheneticus ludovicianus*) moving about the large deciduous trees near Airlie Gardens. He first came into view as he flew up from lower

growth and took a position on a heavy branch about 40 feet above the ground and approximately 100 feet away from me. Through my binoculars (Bushnell 8 x 40) I was quite surprised to see a bird about the size of a Towhee with a rosy red breast, black head, and white belly. This first glance was sufficient to make the diagnosis, but the bird remained stationary long enough to note also the grayish-white bill, black wings with white spots on the primaries, and wing-bars. The red of the breast was seen to begin at a sharp line of demarkation with the black throat and extend completely across the breast and downward to end in a V pattern at the white of the belly.

The movements of the bird were deliberate, allowing clear observation at each perch. He moved to the top of this tree and then was lost from sight. About five minutes later he was seen again from about the same position, but this time sitting in some smaller branches about 30 feet directly over the highway. He maintained this position unflinchingly while a truck roared past beneath him. In all, this bird was under observation for at least 15 minutes. The light was good, although there was a slight overcast.—MERRILL P. SPENCER, M.D., *Winston-Salem, N. C.*

**Dickcissel at Morganton, N. C.**—I am writing to report the appearance of an adult male Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) in Morganton.

The bird was first seen at about 5:30 p.m., on April 3, 1953, eating cracked grain (chick feed) at a ground feeding station in back of our house. Feeding at the same time were several Juncos, House Sparrows, and White-throats. Although he flew as I moved to get my binoculars, he returned in about ten minutes and remained at the station for two or three minutes allowing me to study him at a range of less than ten feet for that length of time.

The bird appeared to be about the size of a House Sparrow or slightly larger, was thinner and sleeker in appearance than the sparrow, and stood higher above the ground. His crown was a uniform gray color, his cheeks were the same color of gray, and the prominent eye-streak was anteriorly a brilliant yellow, the posterior one-fourth of the streak being white. The breast was quite yellow, shading laterally and on the lower abdomen to a dirty-white color. On the upper portion of the breast was a prominent solid black patch, with apex downward. The chin was white, extending down to the base of the breast spot and on either side of the neck anteriorly was a black streak, which, in association with the breast spot presented a bib-like appearance.

The right epaulette appeared to be a consistent reddish-brown color, standing in contrast to the grayish-brown color of the rest of the wing, and wing bars were distinct. The left shoulder feathers were solid white, probably representing a genetic aberration, while the rest of the left wing resembled the coloration of the right wing. The tail was slightly notched and mottled brown.

The bird reappeared at the feeding station at about 7:05 a.m., April 4, remaining for 2 minutes. Again at 8:10 a.m., that morning he was back for several minutes. Despite an almost constant watch, the bird was not seen again until 5:45 that evening when it was also seen by my father who concurred in my identification.—JAMES C. TAYLOR, *Morganton, N. C.* (A Dickcissel was also reported at Lenoir, N. C., but details are not available for this issue.—*Dept. Ed.*)

**Song Sparrow Nesting at Clemson, S. C.**—Since breeding records for the Song Sparrow in South Carolina are rare (cf., Sprunt and Chamberlain, *South Carolina Bird Life*, pp. 551-552), I wish to report that on May 8, 1953, I located a nest of Song Sparrows containing five young. The nest was on the west side of Long Hall on the Clemson College campus and was located about three feet off the ground in a thicket of prostrate Juniper. The young were at fledgling stage, and on May 9 had left the nest. Another nest complete except for lining was located four feet away

from the occupied nest. On showing the nests to Waddy McFall, State Game warden at Pickens, S. C., he found a piped egg of the Song Sparrow about 30 feet away. This egg has been added to the College collection of eggs. The writer has heard Song Sparrows in the vicinity of Long Hall at periods over the past two years, and has located, during 1952 and 1953, singing males in May through July at six different locations on the 30,000 acre Clemson Land-Use Area which is immediately adjacent north and south of the campus. At least one pair of Song Sparrows were seen along the west side of Long Hall throughout 1952 and 1953, except during a part of January 1953. A color photograph was made of the nest after the young had left.—DOUGLAS E. WADE, S. C. Wildlife Resources Dept., Division of Game, Clemson, S. C.

### Briefs for the Files.

**Brown Pelican**, 3 at Pea Island Refuge, N. C., March 10, 1953, L. B. Turner. **Anhinga**, pair at Poinsetta Park, Sumter Co., S. C., Mrs. W. H. Faver. **Blue Goose**, wintering bird at Beal's Lake, Elkin, N. C., still present July 2, E. M. Hodel. **Scaup (Sp.)**, 1, Elkin, N. C., April 25, 1953, E. M. Hodel. **Bald Eagle**, 1, six miles south of Elkin, N. C., June 29, 1953, E. M. Hodel. **Purple Gallinule**, 1, at Orton's, Wilmington, N. C., May 23, 1953, Mrs. Appleberry. **Black-necked Stilt**, 1 at Southport, N. C., April 18, 1953, George Smith. **Barn Swallow**, incubating on same nest recorded last year, Blowing Rock, N. C., June 12, 1953, B. R. Chamberlain. **Brown Thrasher**, several wintered at Highlands, N. C. (normally absent) Jan. 1, until early March, Tolliver Crumkleton. **Olive-backed Thrush**, 1 at Spartanburg, S. C., May 11, 1953, John O. Watkins. **Swainson's Warbler**, 1, Airlie Gardens, Wilmington, N. C., observed at length and song heard April 25 & 26, 1953, Doris Simpson, Hannah Spencer. **Tennessee Warbler**, 1 male singing and seen, Pearson's Falls, Tryon, N. C., May 10, 1953, John O. Watkins, Gabriel Cannon. **Black-throated Green Warbler**, carrying nesting material, Tryon, N. C., May 10, 1953, John O. Watkins. **Canada Warbler**, 1, Spartanburg, S. C., May 11, 1953, John O. Watkins. **American Redstart**, 1 singing at Charlotte, N. C., May 5, 1953, Sarah Nooe. **Scarlet Tanager**, summering at Chapel Hill, N. C., W. L. McAtee. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, male Spartanburg, S. C., May 1, 1953, John O. Watkins; 1 male at Troy, N. C., April 20 & 24, Frances M. Covington. **Redpoll**, small flock, Winston-Salem, N. C., April 5, 1953, Charles Frost. **Red Crossbill**, flock remained at Greensboro, N. C., until April 24, 1953, George Smith. **Carolina Slate-colored Junco**, nest, 4 young top of Mt. Mitchell, N. C., June 10, 1953, Ruth Crick. **White-throated Sparrow**, 12, Troy, N. C., May 14, 1953, Frances M. Covington. CORRECTION: For **Yellow-throat**, singing at Winston-Salem in June '53 "Briefs" read: **Yellow-throated Warbler**.—Dept. Ed.

## THE 1953 SPRING CENSUS

Counts came from but eight localities this year. There were twelve last year. Several of the reports were incomplete. There were no reports from the Mountain Region. Greensboro, in the Piedmont, and Wilmington on the coast, seem to be representative and are interesting to compare. At Greensboro, the Piedmont Bird Club turned out 39 participants. There counts were: 126 species and 6,424 individuals. Date: May 2, 1953. Temp. 62-82 degrees. The ten most abundant species: Am. Goldfinch, 783; Am. Robin, 328; Starling, 262; Cardinal, 252; Chipping Sparrow, 189; Chimney Swift, 202; Eastern Mockingbird, 188; Common Bluebird, 183; Myrtle Warbler, 177; Wood Thrush, 157. Noteworthy: Common Snipe, 1; White-rumped Sandpiper, 1; Least Flycatcher, 1; Bank Swallow, 8; Wilson's Thrush, 6; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Scarlet Tanager, 21; Purple Finch, 1. Compiler: Mrs. Margaret Wall.

At Wilmington, 14 participated. Date: April 25, 1953. Temp. 61-82 degrees. Counts 166 species, 6,679 individuals. The ten most abundant

species: Ring-billed Gull, 280; Herring Gull, 275; Purple Martin, 270; Red-winged Blackbird, 220; House Sparrow, 208; Common Cormorant, 207; Starling, 205; Common Meadowlark, 181; Am. Crow, 165; Savannah Sparrow, 161. Noteworthy: Canada Goose, 10; Virginia Rail, 1; Stilt Sandpiper, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 27; Painted Bunting, 27. Compiler: Mrs. Cecil Appleberry.

In comparing the above Piedmont and Coastal lists of the most abundant species, it is interesting to note that *only the imported Starling is common to both lists*. Ninety-six species appear on both lists. Seventy reported at Wilmington were not noted at Greensboro. Thirty found at Greensboro were not seen at Wilmington. These communities are separated by only 170 miles horizontally, but by 880 significant feet vertically.

Other census reports were received from Aiken, S. C., and Elkin, Charlotte, Lenoir, Raleigh, and Winston-Salem, N. C. At Aiken, 30 Common Snipe were listed (Apr. 2, William Post, Jr.). At Raleigh, April 30, 1 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was watched by Steve Messenger. At Winston-Salem, May 3, 2 Common Snipe, a Least Flycatcher (Witherington), 5 Barn Swallows, and a Tennessee Warbler (Doris Simpson) were recorded.

#### Participants.

Aiken, S. C.—William Post, Jr.

Charlotte, N. C.—Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Chamberlain, N. A. Chamberlain (compiler), Mrs. E. O. Clarkson, Leeds Cushman, Sarah Nooe, Josephine Osborne, Mrs. George Potter, Mrs. Helen Wardlaw, Olin P. Wearn.

Elkin, N. C.—Linville Hendren, Earle M. Hodel (compiler).

Greensboro, N. C.—Mrs. J. B. Beason, John Carr, Mrs. W. C. Carr, Trudy Caulder, Evelyn Cole, Inez Colewell, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Craft, Jerry Craig, Dr. Charles Dawley, Sidney Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Keller, Charlie Lambe, Anne Locke, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh L. Medford, Hugh Medford, Jr., Mrs. Robert McCoy, Ida Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. George Pettitt, Dr. Hollis Rogers, Etta Schiman, Mrs. Edith Settan, Dr. and Mrs. A. D. Shaftesbury, C. D. Shingler, Ray Slate, George Smith, Mrs. William Smyre, Thomas Street, Hal Strickland, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Swart, Dr. and Mrs. Wesley Taylor, Margaret Wall (compiler), Mrs. R. H. Weisner.

Lenoir, N. C.—Cary Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Fred May. (compiler, Mrs. May).

Raleigh, N. C.—Glenn Hampton, J. W. Johnson, Steve Messenger, Robert Overing, Ethel Wray, D. L. Wray (compiler).

Wilmington, N. C.—Cecil Appleberry, Edna Appleberry (compiler). Mrs. Mary Baker, Mrs. E. E. Boegli, Clifford Comeau, John Funderburg, Annie Herbst, Mrs. Polly Mebane, Claude McAllister, Dr. and Mrs. T. W. Simpson, Dr. and Mrs. Merrill Spencer, Mrs. Mary Ulrich.

Winston-Salem, N. C.—R. L. Bagnal, Mrs. Mary Buckner, Jay Fearrington, Charles M. Frost, Mr. and Mrs. John Gatewood, Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Kissam, Mrs. A. M. McLean, Emily Shaffer, Dr. and Mrs. T. W. Simpson, Dr. and Mrs. Merrill P. Spencer, Mr. and Mrs. James L. Stephenson, Peggy Stephenson, R. N. White, R. H. Witherington (compiler).

—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Department Editor, Matthews, N. C., July 13, 1953.*

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Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

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**Cover Photograph.**—Canada Geese at Gaddy's Pond, Anson Co., N. C. by Jack Dermid, Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh, N. C. Publication of this unique photograph is made possible by the generous support of Dr. Steve Gaddy Boyce, nephew of the late Lockhart Gaddy.

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

One bright October day I stopped in to see Fred and Margaret Conderman, CBC members who live in an ideal home on the north bank of the Trent River just above New Bern, North Carolina. They enjoy the abundant wildlife about them and have become intimately acquainted with it.

Bird houses and squirrel boxes are all over the place, mostly quite high up in the trees. So far the Condermans have noticed no particular conflict between the squirrels and the birds. Flying squirrels are not as abundant this year as formerly, but a family of dark-tailed ones has appeared this year. They run swiftly head foremost down a big oak tree spot-lighted from the house, and eat peanuts and pecans from Fred's outstretched hand. Gray squirrels have become still tamer, and they sometimes climb over his shoulder and into his pockets where they know pecans are kept for them. Once, a pair of black-faced Fox squirrels were almost pets, but one was shot by a hunter and the other never mated again.

As I watched from the kitchen window several Cardinals on the ground below cocked their heads, watching the window and waiting for Fred to throw them pecan meats. Red-bellied Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Warblers preferred special cookies prepared by Margaret. A lone Red-wing landed on the squirrel-proof feeding tray. Chickadees drank from a slowly dripping faucet just below the window. A Pied-billed Grebe lazily swam about in the river, off to the left.

The glass hummingbird feeders were empty, but all summer long until three weeks before my visit, they had been patronized by several Rubythroats. Some individuals preferred feeders at the north window, others at the west.

About 7 o'clock in the morning a Flicker emerged sleepily from a swinging bird box, and promptly was engaged in an altercation with a Red-bellied Woodpecker. Fred said that the Flickers go to bed in the boxes, one to a box, about 3 P.M. each day and do not leave until sun-up.

The swinging boxes, put up to discourage squirrels, are suspended between two trees by fine wire. The squirrels, however, can walk upright on the wire or proceed hand over hand beneath it, and they have raised several broods in the swinging boxes. They carry their nearly grown young from one box to another over the wires, and sometimes a family occupies as many as four boxes before the youngsters are grown.

Twice, Fred and Margaret have investigated disturbances at the houses and found snakes in them devouring young birds—once at a Flicker nest and once at a Bluebird's nest. The snakes were dispatched forthwith. Both Fred and Margaret are expert shots, and they have several bear and deer trophies to prove it.

Sometimes Screech Owls occupy the bird boxes, much to the consternation of the Flickers. One year, a pair of Wood Ducks nested in a box which was in sight of the kitchen window. The nest was unsuccessful, and the Wood Ducks have not returned.

A trip to the Condermans is always sure to bring new experiences, as the Matt Thompsons and Boo Whitener, our former Treasurer, also know. Plan a visit with the Condermans when you are in the vicinity of New Bern. They will be glad to see you.

—ROBERT OVERING

## PEA ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE NORTH CAROLINA

Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge was, until recently, one of the most inaccessible places on the Atlantic coast. It is on the Outer Banks of North Carolina south of Roanoke Island and is bounded on one side by Pamlico Sound and on the other by the open Atlantic.

This narrow barrier island, consisting of beach, dunes, and marsh, had been practically roadless. Construction of the new highway southward now permits visits to the refuge at all seasons of the year.

The Pea Island Refuge, containing about 5,880 acres, begins at Oregon Inlet and extends south almost to the town of Rodanthe. This narrow island is one of the winter homes of the Greater Snow Goose, accommodating at times several thousand of these birds. Many Canada Geese and Brant come here, as well as practically all species of ducks that winter anywhere on the North Carolina coast. The refuge contains the only large concentration of Gadwall nesting along the Atlantic coast. Pea Island is one of the finest places on the coast to observe the seasonal migration of shore birds, 34 species having been recorded.

Black-bellied Plovers and Willets are conspicuous in their black and white plumage. In the spring Ruddy Turnstones and Red-backed Sandpipers are colorful. The Yellowlegs, like the Willets, are always noisy. Sanderlings seem continuously to be racing the waves in their search for food. Most abundant, no doubt, are the Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers and the Ringed Plovers which are small and generally classed as "peeps." The Oyster-catcher and the Avocet, considered stragglers from the south and west, have been seen a number of times. Many of the shore birds remain through the winter and a few may be seen in any month of the year.

Since the refuge was established in 1938, much development work has been done to stabilize the dunes, and dikes have been built to provide fresh-water marshes. Without this development, including the planting of suitable duck foods and controlled burning to produce green browse for geese, this section of the coast would have been little different from many other miles of barrier beach and dunes.

The impounded areas, with rain as the only source of water, have produced an abundance of food plants like sago pondweed, wigeongrass, bulrush, and spikerush. These ponds remain fresh throughout the year, making the refuge attractive to a great variety of waterfowl. The winter population of ducks and geese has increased greatly, with many birds coming in during severe winters when feeding areas in states to the north are frozen over.

Pea Island Refuge is an important way station on the Atlantic flyway. It is located at a strategic point, an area where several of the most heavily traveled lanes of waterfowl traffic converge.

One of these routes begins at the very top of the world in northern Greenland and the islands of the Arctic Ocean—summer home of the Greater Snow Goose and the Atlantic Brant. In the fall the Greater Snow Goose migrates southward, probably across Baffin Land and the Province

of Quebec, to the St. Lawrence Valley. Between this point and Fortescue, New Jersey, their known landfalls are few. From Fortescue, these birds range down the coast, making stops at Bombay Hook Refuge, Delaware; Chincoteague and Back Bay Refuges in Virginia; and then to Pea Island.

As the Snow Goose and Brant come down by this route across north-eastern Canada, they are joined by Canada Geese, Black Ducks, and other waterfowl from the shores of Hudson Bay and the Maritime Provinces. Many of these winter at the mouth of the Susquehanna and in Chesapeake Bay and Pamlico Sound. Pea Island Refuge serves as the southern terminus for a large population of Canada Geese. Migration of all these birds down the coast, as well as their shuttling back and forth between refuges during the fall and winter months, is governed by weather conditions and the available food supply.

Protection against shooting is not enough in itself to ensure the welfare of these birds. They must also find abundant food within their restricted winter range. Their pastures are the salt meadows—the tough-rooted salt-marsh cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*). Once there was an abundance of marshland along the coast, but much of it has been lost by draining and filling. Unless some natural marsh areas are set apart for the use of wildlife, species like the Snow Goose cannot survive.

In feeding, Snow Geese employ so much energy in seeking cordgrass roots that their feeding ground is literally uprooted and sometimes it takes several seasons for the vegetation to grow again. One means of creating additional feeding grounds for Snow Geese as well as Canada Geese, is to burn off the old growth of marsh grass, making it easier for them to puddle out the roots they enjoy for food. Consequently, a definite program for burning marshlands is followed on parts of Pea Island as well as at other refuges along the Atlantic coast to make the plant roots more readily available and to provide essential green browse.

When the Snow and Canada Geese are on their northern breeding grounds, Pea Island Refuge is not deserted. Another group of birds—Royal Terns, Black Skimmers, Laughing Gulls and others—take over—not by the vast assemblages that characterize the wintering waterfowl, but by the smaller, industrious breeding population. Red-winged Blackbirds and Boat-tailed Grackles are present throughout the year. Barn Swallows nest about all of the buildings, while Catbirds and Yellow-throats make excellent use of the wax myrtle.

At Oregon Inlet the Common and Least Terns may be found in some numbers. Cormorants, Gannets, Loons, Red-breasted Mergansers, and a variety of gulls usually are present except in midsummer. Herons are increasing as summer residents. Snowy and Common Egrets, Great Blue, Green, Louisiana, and Little Blue Herons all may be seen while driving through the refuge. Early in the morning or towards dusk the Least and American Bitterns begin feeding around the edges of the marsh, as do the Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night Herons.

Rich in bird life, Pea Island Refuge answers every requirement of a desirable waterfowl area. In addition, the development work, which has included the construction of “sand fences” that act as a sea wall to prevent storm tides from flooding the fresh-water marshes, has been par-

ticularly beneficial to the region because it has saved the beaches for public recreation.

In 1937, Congress passed an act authorizing the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area Project. Revised boundaries for this project extend from Whalebone Junction, at the southern boundary of Nags Head, southward to Cape Hatteras and southwestward to Ocracoke Inlet, a total distance of about 70 miles.

The law provides that Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, which extends for 13 miles south from Oregon Inlet, shall continue as a refuge under the administrative jurisdiction of the Fish and Wildlife Service. The 5,880 acres of the refuge will be considered part of the National Seashore Recreational Area and recreational uses not inconsistent with the purposes of the refuge are being worked out jointly with the National Park Service.

After crossing on the State-operated Oregon Inlet free ferry, visitors will find excellent fishing and picnicking opportunities at the north tip of Pea Island. This excellent beach and dune area, as far south as the Oregon Inlet Coast Guard Station, has been designated for public recreation. This is one of the best channel-bass fishing spots along the Outer Banks, and is excellent for surf casting. It is possible to drive cars onto the beach if the tires are somewhat deflated. The restaurant at the ferry landing, developed by Toby Tillett under a permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service, provides the only facilities of this sort within the refuge.

As you drive south, about a mile below the Coast Guard Station, the first of two fresh-water pools will be seen on the right. A low observation tower will be constructed at the southeast corner of this first pool, permitting views of the ocean and shipwrecks on the seashore as well as representative wildlife species on the pool.

The two fresh-water impoundments are separated by a flat grazing area popular with both the Snow and Canada Geese.

Field headquarters of the refuge are located in the former Coast Guard buildings on the ocean side of the road, beyond the second impoundment and shortly before New Inlet is reached. It is expected eventually that a second tower may be constructed about a mile beyond and on the south side of New Inlet towards the ocean.

Hunting on lands or waters included in the refuge and adjacent closed waters is not permitted. Use or possession of firearms is prohibited on all lands within the refuge, with the exception that cased or disassembled shotguns may be carried in vehicles on the surfaced road through the refuge during the open season for migratory waterfowl. Building of fires will be restricted to the public use area at Oregon Inlet. Wildlife photography is encouraged. Permission for entry into the fenced parts of the refuge must be secured from the refuge manager or his staff.

More detailed information concerning the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge may be secured at refuge headquarters in Manteo or by writing Box 297, Manteo, North Carolina, (Refuge Leaflet 6)—*United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

# YOU, THE FOREST, AND WILDLIFE

DOUGLAS WADE

Trees alone never did and never will make up a true forest. We might start to catch a thrilling picture of what a forest truly is, and the remarkable part played by animals in the life of a forest, if we could walk through a forest with a group of scientists. Such a group might well include a forester, a soils man, a water resources specialist, a botanist, a zoologist, an entomologist, an historian, and an ecologist. The last two, the historian and the ecologist, would fit together the many different views and knowledge into a whole picture. It might not be too bad an idea to take along an artist and a poet, too. For through art and poetry, much of the relationship of the forest to human beings can be interpreted. Indeed, to so depict the land, and all that it means, may be one of the primary jobs of art and poetry.

There is a constant stir and drama being played in the forest. Living creatures, from those microscopic to large four-footed beasts, each play a role. Reading about these dramas, or even better, viewing them in such a wonderful film as Disney's *Nature's Half Acre*, (released in 1951) is not enough. We ourselves must go into a forest or a woodlot with sharp eyes, keen ears, and an open inquiring mind. Only then can we start to learn something about a forest.

A forest is four-dimensional. To its size and numbers and kinds of plants and animals, it is necessary to add *time*. Time gives it the fourth dimension. It takes time for forests to develop, and it also takes time and constant revisiting on the part of any of us to catch a glimpse of what a forest truly is. And, through repeated visits we catch the dynamic changes that occur daily and seasonally.

When we first take a long honest look at a forest, we shall start to see more than just trees, although it is true that trees characterize and give forests their names. We shall see shrubs, plants low to the ground, and birds—some high in the trees, some low in the trees, and some on the ground. We begin to perceive vertical layers in the makeup of the forest, and after we have studied and observed long enough we begin to



*An over-all  
view of a  
forest.*

*Looking  
Glass Rock  
in Pisgah  
Game Pre-  
serve, N. C.*

*Photo by Jack  
Dermid, Cour-  
tesy of N. C.  
Wildlife Re-  
sources Com-  
mission.*





*White-footed Mouse, a common dweller of woodlands.*

*Photo by Jack Dermid, Courtesy N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission.*

see that various animals, birds, mammals, snakes, frogs, toads salamanders, insects, and other creatures of the forest, occupy various parts or levels in these layers. An old rotting tree, standing or prostrate on the ground, will have a different set of living creatures using it than will a young live sapling. There are even outside-inside layers, as in the rotting log or dead, standing trees.

After several long and thoughtful looks at a forest, we ought to be able to start drawing up a list of the wild animals—animals that crawl, hop, burrow, fly, work by day or night, are resident, or just pass through on migration, or use different parts of a forest seasonally. With proper equipment and guidance, we could learn to see and name the microscopic animals that live in the forest soils, in the decaying organic material on the forest floor, inside trees and underneath the bark of trees and leaves. But more often we leave this naming to specialists. All of these creatures, making some use of the forest, either as permanent or temporary occupants, have an important bearing on the life of a forest. Actually, it's not too important to know the names of everything, so don't worry if we can't name most of the animals. The important thing is to get out and learn what a forest is—that it is, in part, made up of living animals and dead animals.

When an animal dies in a forest, its body is consumed in many ways and by different animals. Some of its body may, however, return to help enrich the forest soil.

In other ways, animals enrich and help to continue forest growth. When an animal or bird eats of a fruit-bearing or seed-bearing tree, shrub, vine, or plant, some of the seeds—especially those with hard coats—pass right on through the digestive system and are deposited somewhere on the forest floor in the form of seats or droppings. Biologists and wildlife managers often make use of these to study the food habits of various animals. In a good many instances—an impressive number in the life of



any forest—these seeds, thus deposited, and partly encased in fertilizer nutrients, take root. In this way many animals over thousands of years have contributed to the planting of the forests.

Occasionally some animals temporarily break the bounds that hold them down in numbers. When these population outbreaks occur—and some may be attributed to mismanagement somewhere along the line by man—a forest may be damaged. There are some insects that may need to be controlled lest they damage or weaken trees. In some places, in most states, deer have become so plentiful that they have eaten up many of the young or small-sized plant members of a forest. Cattle, hogs, and particularly goats, do the same thing when man thoughtlessly allows them to run in woodlots or forests.

Now, let us briefly examine some of the ways in which foresters and wildlife managers are working together to retain a rich and substantial number of animals in the forests and woodlots.

Wild animals need food and cover. Foresters trained in wildlife management help by leaving a number of highly desired mast-producing trees, shrubs, and vines. Very young oak trees, for instance, usually are not heavy nut (mast) producers. Trees, especially the larger ones, with hollows, are left as den trees for certain mammals and birds. Forest edges, planted to highly-preferred perennial food and cover plants, are among the more valuable portions of a forest or woodlot to wildlife. *Lespedeza bicolor* is one field-woodland border plant now being used throughout many southern states.

*A field-woods border of Bicolor (tall) and Sericea (short) Lespedeza recommended by foresters and wildlife managers to provide food and cover for wildlife.*

*Photo by Jack Dermid, Courtesy N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission.*



Small sized openings and forest roads (useful for logging operations and fire control) are kept open and planted to nutritious food-producing plants, low shrubs and nut trees. Such openings are highly preferred by deer, Wild Turkey, Quail, Ruffed Grouse and other wildlife. Certain forest-types, such as alder and cane bottomlands, are among the high producers of food items and cover for a large variety of wild creatures. Foresters are cooperating by leaving undisturbed many such areas.

Foresters also realize that forest wildlife (terrestrial and aquatic) depends on the amount of food and cover left. Many foresters have included in their work plans those wildlife management procedures which can be effectively dovetailed with forest management plans. This is conservation in action *on the land*, and is *multiple-use* of the forests.

In a general way, it is most important for all of us to accept the *ecological viewpoint* that all things are inter-related. An important application of this thinking enters into the management of forest watersheds. On such well handled watersheds, many creatures, both land and water, benefit. Forests and fish, for example, both benefit from an intelligent handling of watersheds. Fisheries men have agreed that good fishing in forest streams and lakes depends mainly on good forestry and land management. The streams furnish "room and board" for fish. Such can be maintained on well handled forested watersheds. Foresters, by controlling fires, maintaining stringent cutting regulations along the margin of streams, holding the soil in place, and laying out logging roads that do not add silt to streams, help in maintaining the productivity of streams.

By now you should begin to see that by paying more attention to the welfare of forest wildlife, human beings directly benefit themselves. Those cities and towns of the Carolina Piedmont, which have carefully tended forested watersheds, still have a supply of water, in spite of several years of drouth. Many Piedmont towns need larger reservoirs and watersheds. And many people need to learn more about what a forest is.

Before your next trip to a forest or farm woodlot, read this article again. List in a notebook some observations you'd like to make. Keep a written record of what you see and think about while on your trip. You will find many surprises and adventures awaiting you in the forest. May your understanding of the forest and wildlife increase.—*South Carolina Wildlife Resources Department, Information and Education Section, Columbia, S. C.*

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## ELTONIAN PYRAMID

A  
 M a n  
 A t e s e a l  
 Speared from a herd  
 Feeding on codfish and flounder  
 Schooling in cold Atlantic Ocean water  
 Where these fishes foraged on the bottom  
 Preying on numerous snails, crustaceans, and echinoderms  
 Which fed in turn upon abundant stocks of bivalve and annelid.  
 The shellfish had filtered from gallons of water detritus and plankton  
 Containing countless copepods, ciliates, bacteria, and algae, including diatoms,  
 All of which build link by link, level by level, an ecologic principle—the Eltonian pyramid.

RALPH W. DEXTER

[Reprinted from the October 1952 *Scientific Monthly*, by kind permission of the editor.]



## BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, Department Editor

How about doing your Christmas shopping with this department in mind? A gift of a birdbath, a novelty feeder, or birdhouse ready to be nailed together, one of the many interesting books about birds, or even a camera may be the foundation for an interest in backyard birding. Hummingbird feeders are fascinating, and hold a promise of interesting hours in the summer when these little birds will readily come to feed on the sweetened water. Mr. and Mrs. Charles I. Simons of Columbia report that during September Mrs. Simons had the experience of having a male Hummingbird drink from a small flower container as she held it in her hand! Stationary vials tipped with red like make-believe flowers and placed about the yard have made the birds accustomed to such feeders. Consequently, when Mrs. Simons stood at an open window, this male hummer came readily to her hand. This had proved to be such an exciting adventure that it was repeated several times with equal success.

I have always been interested in hearing of birds coming to a person's hand to eat ever since I read "Freckles" long ago. As I remember, the first story about birds that Mrs. Sisson had in the *Columbia State* in August 1948, told of her experiences while feeding a family of five Tufted Titmice. The parent birds had learned to take sunflower seed from Mrs. Sisson's hand. Then when the three babies hatched, they were taught by their parents to do likewise. I have heard them beg for seed, and have watched them follow us about the yard as they fluttered about her head fussing for attention. The Titmice still come to her to be fed, and she says she thinks one bird is one of the original quintet.

The following from Dr. Jones is timely . . . from the viewpoint of a camera as a Christmas gift, and the thrill of feeding a bird:

This summer two incidents marked highlights for us in bird appreciation. Of different nature and weeks apart, each served to emphasize how poorly enjoyment of material pleasures fare when compared with the genuine thrills that may be derived from observation of and contact with wildlife.

Early in June, I was driving back home from Duke Hospital one morning, when a car ahead of me slowed down, drifted to the middle of the road and straddled the white line. I was in a hurry and started to pass. The driver ahead, however, merely slowed still more, and maneuvered

to keep me in my place. I became irritated, and made a gesture that I would pass on the right, but still he kept directly ahead. About the time I was thoroughly exasperated and started to sound my horn, he came to a stop, and to my amazement, crossing ahead of his car and appearing near the shoulder of the road came an agitated mother Quail! Sedately behind her marched single-file three youngsters, little aware of the dangers the mother saw in the monster of a car that had stopped a few feet away. My hat is off to that driver; he may have been a hunter with an eye to the coming fall season; he may not have been . . . but he certainly was a sportsman!

My family and I had often speculated on the possibility of having some wild bird become tame enough to come to one of us to feed. Despite a standing offer of a dollar for the first one to succeed, no incident was reported. This summer I raised the "ante" to five dollars, but despite all efforts there were still no claimants. One Sunday morning in late August, after filling the feeders, I stood idly (and expectantly) nearby with my hand extended and filled with sunflower seed. Several Brown-headed Nuthatches were the first visitors to the hanging feeder, and one venturesome bird dropped upside down on the tree beside me to look over the situation. He flew to a feeder on another tree, picked up a crumb of bread, dropped it, and then, as I held my breath, he landed on my thumb, picked up a seed and flew away!

I dashed indoors to tell the family, and later my daughter, Julia, came out with me to try again. This time I was armed with a camera, and this was really our lucky day! Many, many trips were enjoyed, with excitement mounting for the two of us. Julia held a seed between her lips and was rewarded by having it skillfully removed by the Nuthatch. At one time, she had two Nuthatches on her arm, while I had one on my head, and one perched on the camera. These experiences we have repeated often since then, but the series of pictures taken that afternoon were successful beyond our highest hopes.



We noted one particular action of the birds that puzzled us for days. A bird would take up and drop several seed before selecting one, then he would fly away to a nearby pine, stuff it behind a chip of bark, and return for another. When I opened a couple of the seed that had been discarded, I found that the kernel was dried or withered or absent altogether. The seeds taken apparently held "fresh meat." While these small nuthatches were "squirreling" seeds away in the pines, the larger White-breasted Nuthatches were roaming up and down the tree trunks systematically robbing the caches.

We have noted many quirks of temperament, many variations of disposi-

tion among these friendly little birds. Many have been the moments of sheer pleasure they have afforded us in these past few weeks. We hope sometime to bring other birds to hand, but so far have been rewarded with "near-misses." Just last week, Julia was putting flea-powder on the cocker pup, when a Nuthatch buzzed her head and fussed about being neglected. Thursday, as I was sowing grass-seed, another (or the same one) came fluttering by me, so I stopped and pulled out some sunflower seed and offered it which it accepted. This was repeated several times before I had the yard completely planted.

I have never discovered a gold mine, nor seen the original Mona Lisa. I have never flown a jet. But thrills like those I am sure I could now take in stride, for I have had a bird eat from my hand!—THOMAS T. JONES, M. D., *Durham, N. C., Sept. 26, 1953.*

If you have any notes on albino birds, please send them to me for the March issue.—*Dept. Editor.*

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## Fall Meeting

The 1953 Fall meeting of the Carolina Bird Club was held at Camp Mondamin, located on Lake Summit, Tuxedo, N. C., on September 25-27, 1953. Fifty-seven persons, thirty-six from North Carolina and twenty-one from South Carolina, registered for the session. The Camp has been operated as a boy's camp by CBC Member Frank Bell for thirty-three years. It affords excellent accommodations and a variety of good birding territory. It rained throughout the field trips on Saturday, but sixty-six species of birds were recorded that day. Sunday dawned somewhat drier and the sun broke through the clouds at intervals, making the hiking more enjoyable for those who stayed over the extra day.

The highlight of the program was the showing of the 45-minute film on the life history of the Bobwhite, taken in Missouri. The picture was presented by Gordon H. Brown, of Columbia, South Carolina, on behalf of Doug Wade, who is side-lined with a broken leg suffered in fighting a forest fire. The Bobwhite picture is superb, depicting the life of a Bobwhite family, including birth, death and disaster, and it contains some excellent shots of courtship display, the capture of a Bobwhite youngster by a Cooper's Hawk, and the hunting of Quail by sportsmen with guns and dogs. This film is owned by the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Department and is available for use by interested groups in that State.

Because of the rain, field trips were curtailed Saturday afternoon. Informal conversations were enjoyed about the fireplace in the dining and assembly hall. A sunken pool of water in front of one side of the fireplace reflected the firelight and caused many comments and inquiries.

Interesting talks to the group were made by Frank Bell, Margaret Wall and Ethel McNairy. Frank Lipp, who has an aviary containing various exotic birds at his home near Hendersonville, North Carolina, presented some ideas on bird protection. Robert Overing reported on the status of the Whooping Crane, as released by the National Audubon Society. Treasurer E. W. Winkler presented some data on finances and membership.

Frank Bell demonstrated proper methods of catching and handling poisonous snakes, of which he has several in captivity. Harry Davis showed several colored slides of poisonous snakes taken at the State Museum in Raleigh. Also, on Friday evening he exhibited a number of slides of birds which could be expected to be seen on the field trips.

Bea Potter and her committee of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sample and Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Bristow are to be congratulated for the advance preparations which made the Mondamin meeting a most successful one.—ROBERT OVERING.



# EDITORIAL

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News, Reviews, Announcements

Authors, Members, Letters

Items of Interest

The editors of *The Chat*, heads of all departments the editorial board and officers of CBC wish the entire membership a happy, healthy and hearty Christmas and a prosperous 1954!

There's something hidden in the message from our President in this issue. Just read between the lines. Remember that he has often stressed and urged the sharing of birding experiences—he leads the way! I've never seen a bird watcher yet who did not enjoy telling someone—whether it was already his friend or not makes no difference, he soon will be—or showing a person if it is at all possible, a species he has seen or would give his eyetooth to see. Stop and call on CBC members when you're traveling the Carolinas.

The Georgia Ornithological Society held its Semi-Annual meeting on October 17-18 at Vogel State Park near Blairsville, Georgia. The states of Alabama, Georgia, North and South Carolina and Tennessee were represented. CBC members who attended were Mrs. Lynn Gault and Miss Fannie McClellan, Brasstown, N. C., and Mrs. S. A. Philson and Miss May Puett, Greenville, S. C., Mrs. Dorothy Neal was elected president of GOS, succeeding Harold Peters.

DEPLORE DEPARTMENT: We deplore the fact that EIGHT YEARS elapsed between the completion of the manuscript and the publication by the Government of Bent's fine *Life History of the North American Warblers*, recently issued. *Diving Birds*, the first volume of the Bent series, appeared (1919) a year after the manuscript was submitted. If this trend continues, we despair of ever seeing the *Finches*. Can anything be done about it? —B.R.C.

This year we want the 1953 Christmas census to surpass all previous years' records in the Carolinas. From 17 localities reporting in 1950 to CBC's Christmas census compiler, Rhett Chamberlain, the number grew to 25 in 1952. Let this be an extra reminder to all local clubs and CBC members to plan to get out and work on this year's count.

The CBC mid-winter field trip is to be the weekend of January 2nd, at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, some 40 miles north of Hatteras on the coast of North Carolina. Headquarters will be at the Carolinian Hotel at Nags Head, N. C. The program will include a Christmas census and informal meetings Friday and Saturday evenings. Be sure to come prepared in both dress and constitution for cold winds!

# A SPRING VISIT TO WINSTON-SALEM

W. L. MCATEE

It must have been a warm spring as Five-finger, Wild Strawberry, Bluets three kinds of violets, Henbit, and Pussytoes were in blossom. And Fence-Lizards scurried about rock walls and tree trunks, particularly in the Moravian cemetery where I strolled among tombstones, some bearing dates far back into the 17th Century. Here, and along some of the streets, there was a background of sound—the song of Purple Finches. I conclude, though I do not definitely recall, that many of the trees must have been Elms, for in the District of Columbia, then my home, spring always brought these singing finches to the budding Elms, the fresh, green seeds of which<sup>6</sup> were their favorite food.

A bird-food problem it was that brought me to the twin-city, for “green-bugs” or grain aphids swarmed on nearby farms and threatened to destroy crops of rye, wheat, and oats. From 60 to 75 of the plant-lice were counted on single plants in protected situations and in some fields the young grain, drained of its sap, was turning brown. Birds were common and throngs of migrant sparrows swept through the fields. It was the height of migration for Chipping, Vesper, and Savannah Sparrows, and on single days one flock each of about 100 Pine Siskins and 5,000 Pipits were seen on the farm being studied.

Stomachs were collected to provide certain evidence as to what the birds were eating: 155 representing 13 species. All but one (the Robin) of the ground-feeding birds had plant-lice in their stomachs, often in large numbers. Goldfinches, especially, “pitched into” the aphids, taking them to the extent of four-fifths of their food, and in numbers up to 325 at a single meal. Only one Pine Siskin was collected and “green-bugs,” 80 or more, composed its entire stomach contents. Vesper, Savannah, Chipping, Field and Song Sparrows the Snowbird or Junco and the Titlark or Pipit, joined in the aphid predation. An estimate, based on the results of stomach analyses, was that birds on the 100 acres of grain fields under observation were destroying 1,000,000 grain aphids daily. Field-frequenting species did their part that season, as doubtless they do in all years, to help the North Carolina farmers, and they should certainly be repaid with friendly protection.

There is another side to bird economics, however, and evidence of it was gathered on this same trip at the veneer and handle factories of Winston-Salem. In what way may be wondered, but consider the pecking of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers—those industrious ringers of tree limbs and trunks. They seek cambium and sap (though taking some toll of attracted insects), keep the holes open during the season, and re-open them in succeeding years. So long as the punctures are open, rain water, bacteria and fungus spores have access to the wood increasing local damage and staining the wood, often for long distances along the sap channels. The spots (known as “bird pecks”) and the stains (“iron streaks”) were then commonly recognized defects and caused lowering of grade of wood products in which they occurred. The damage was considered serious in those days, but now, when we have grown accustomed to knotty pine and value it even more than clear wood, it is time to overlook most of what was considered damage by Sap-



suckers. Especially is that course recommended in the case of veneer, in which a characteristic kind of birdseye resulting from Sapsucker pecking is much more extensive than the defects and uniquely ornaments the product.

At a veneer plant I saw a Tulip-tree log, the butt of which exceeded my height, so was about six feet across. That is the largest, dead or alive, which I have ever seen, but oldtime friends, E. A. Schwarz, entomologist, and George B. Sudworth, dendrologist, told me of seeing trees of this species ten feet in diameter in rich coves of the North Carolina mountains.

Judge G. W. Hinshaw of Winston-Salem, who suggested the visit here, reminisced, in speaking of Whitetop Mountain on the Virginia-North Carolina line, "They have a tree up there they call the Lashorn or Lash-horn Tree" and told me what he knew about this dweller on the mountain tops. That was enough to fire the imagination of one devoted to the study of local names and started a search for the origin of those terms, which though unsuccessful has never been wholly relinquished. This is one of many instances that create a yearning for more and more of the olden lore of the Southern Appalachians.

The biologist need not learn by birds or trees alone, but can take advantage of bounties in any line that Nature may afford him. A peep into the realm of insects during my bird hunting about the grain fields revealed an interesting habit of a dance-fly (*Empis spectabilis*). About four o'clock on a sunny afternoon, hundreds of pairs were seen flying about or clinging to tree twigs or broom-sedge blades. In all the couples observed, the female was feeding, thrusting her proboscis into and consuming the substance of the prey, which consisted entirely of other kinds of flies. Four species were identified, one a generic kinsfolk. Maybe the victims were peace offerings from the males, for it is no uncommon thing in the insect world for the male to serve as a wedding feast.

[The period discussed is March 29 to April 4, inclusive, and the Spring, alas, that of 1909. For further information on the subjects noted, see: aphid outbreak (*Yearbook U. S. Dept. of Agriculture* 1912:397-404); Sapsucker work. (*Biol. Survey Bulletin* 39, 1911); dance-flies (*Entomological News* 20, (1909):359-361); and Lashorn (*Nature Magazine* 45:540-541, 1952] *J. Davie Circle, Chapel Hill, N. C., Nov. 10, 1952.*

And I am lucky in that I have as exciting time, or more so, on the unsuccessful days as on the successful ones. When Black Ducks fly up from the reeds toward the tamaracks, or Blue-bills come over a tawny marsh, it is their wild and joyful flight that makes my heart leap. Nothing has a sharper glory than wildfowl. They make one feel that life *could* be infinitely more vivid. They are the symbols of that intensity we experience at the high moments of our existence. FLORENCE PAGE JAQUES, *Snowshoe Country*, 1944.

## 1953 Christmas Census

The official dates for the census this winter are Dec. 25, through Jan. 3. When you plan your count remember the CBC Pea Island field trip scheduled for the week-end of Jan. 2nd, and try to get both in. Last winter 214 census takers turned out in the Carolinas. With our increased membership and some good promotional work, that number could be doubled and a more accurate knowledge of our winter bird population obtained.

In offering your Christmas census for publication in *Audubon Field Notes*, send it directly to 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York, and be sure you have complied with the rules laid down by the National Audubon Society. Counts presented for publication in *The Chat* should be sent to B. R. Chamberlain, Rt. 1, Matthews, N. C., before Jan. 15, if they are to appear in the March issue.—B.R.C.





## GENERAL FIELD NOTES

*Advisory Council:* E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

*Department Editor:* B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

Up to the present issue, an even hundred items have been recorded in General Field Notes since its beginning in 1951. This suggests a percentage-wise analysis of the material. Here is a breakdown by subjects: distribution, 85 per cent; food, 5 per cent; behavior, 5 per cent; banding, 2 per cent; plumage, 2 per cent; migration, 1 per cent.

The large number of items on distribution is not surprising. The four piece pattern is most familiar: Common Smallbill (*Parvirostratus vulgaris*); place; date; observer. And we are frequently hard put to it to build a fair paragraph of the naked facts. Of course there is still much to be learned about distribution, but we are even more ignorant in other fields of ornithology.

Could we have more observations on plumage, song, feeding, flight, sleeping, courtship, nest building, habitat, etc?

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**Loon Flight at Cape Lookout, N. C.** On May 3, 1953, we went to observe the traditional Cape Lookout loon flight that occurs each year in early May, at daybreak hours. Following directions, we posted ourselves on Shackelford Banks, one mile west of Barden's Inlet, between some low hills held by Sea Oats. The wind was light from the south and the weather was cool and clear.

In the early light the loons, one to five at a time, were getting aloft from the ocean a half mile or more away to the south, and cutting across the narrow beach to the over-water route north over Core Sound. One could well see that fast and furious shooting could be had if shooting these birds was in order.

A look at the map shows the probable reasoning of the loon in northward migration. The Cape Lookout beach projects abruptly south-eastward some five miles from the smooth beach curve, and to the birds following the surf it presents a choice of turning at an acute angle to follow around or awaiting daylight to solve the puzzle. As a result the birds "drop into the open sea," as the local fishermen state the case, until early morning. Then they get aloft and survey the situation, and choose to cross the narrow beach and continue the northward over-water flight over Core Sound.

The birds were Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) insofar as we could tell. Of note was the fact that all these birds had their beaks open at about a 30 degree angle as they came close. This is suggestive of the physical effort they had just made to clear the rolling seas and get aloft. We were informed that the flights were greater in number when a north (head) wind was blowing. We observed some 60 of these birds during the 2½ hours.—D. L. Wray, Harry T. Davis, Glenn Hampton, and Steve Messenger, Oct. 16, 1953.

**Greater Shearwater at Morehead City, N. C.**—This summer I was at Morehead again and I saw several birds worth recording. Among them, in the ocean about 1,000 yards off Fort Macon, on August 4, were a Great Black-backed Gull and a Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*). Both the Gull and the Shearwater were feeding with a large group of terns and seemed to show little fear of the fishing boats that were present. Neither bird stayed more than 15 minutes, but they were closely observed, on the water and in flight, from a boat. I noticed no association between the two. The Shearwater was a mature bird, with all field marks evident. The Gull was not yet jet black on the back and must have been immature.—ROBERT HOLMES, III, Mount Olive, N. C., Sept. 7, 1953.

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron Nesting in Columbus Co., N. C.**—On June 15th, 1953 I made a trip to Snake Island, which is about five miles east of Hallsboro, N. C., in Columbus County, and there I saw four pair of Yellow-crowned Night Herons and their nests, which were placed about twenty feet above the ground in a thicket of gum and cypress saplings well overgrown with smilax. I saw a number of adult birds fishing along the edges of the small creek as I worked up the bank collecting reptiles, but did not see a nest until I saw a bulky mass of twigs, while watching a Pileated Woodpecker. As I moved closer to investigate it a Yellow-crown flew from another nest and I then saw that there were four nests in this spot. No attempt was made to climb to the nests because the trees in which they were placed were too unstable to permit doing so without dislodging the nests. However, I hid and waited until two of the adults returned to the nests and settled on them. I heard no young birds and no food was brought to the nests, so I can only conjecture that the eggs had not hatched, at least in these two nests.

This record is of interest since the Yellow-crowned Night Heron is seldom reported breeding on our coast. There are several recent nesting records from the Piedmont region, at least as far west as Mecklenburg County.—JOHN B. FUNDERBURG, JR., Wilmington, N. C.

**Wood Ibis in Tyrrell County, N. C.**—On July 22, 1953, at 4:25 P.M., about 1 mile west of Columbia, in Tyrrell County, I spotted, from Highway 64, a Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*). I kept my glass on it for four or five minutes while it circled a small pond near the highway. It then flew along the highway for about three-quarters of a mile and went into another small pond of some 2 acres. I watched it from about 75 feet with my Zeiss 10 x 50 glasses, while it fed along with 3 common Egrets and 17 Little Blue Herons. It was the best view of any I have had. It was an immature bird, judging from the descriptions of plumages given in Bent's *Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds*.—ROBERT L. WOLFF, Greenville, N. C., July 26, 1953.

**White Ibises in the Interior of North Carolina.**—On July 19th, 1953, my wife and I observed two immature White Ibises feeding at the north end of Salem Lake near Winston-Salem. They were very dark on the back and wings, one appearing almost black, but were uniformly white on the belly. The lower back was also white when uncovered by the wings. The neck and head were gray and the bill and legs appeared dull pink.

We observed these birds with binoculars from a distance of about 100 yards for about 15 minutes. The same birds, or two similar ones, were observed by the T. W. Simpsons and myself in the same spot the following evening.—EDWARD KISSAM, Winston-Salem, N. C.

**Swallow-tailed Kite over Pitt County, N. C.**—On May 28, 1953, at 1:20 P.M., I saw a Swallow-tailed Kite about 3 miles west of Farmville, Pitt County N. C. from Highway No. 264. It was flying from SW to NE and was in view for about 12 minutes. It came within about 200 yards and with 7 x 50 B. & L. glasses there was no mistaking it. This was the period during which a storm swept through the south central U. S., and the Kite was flying in front of a violent wind and rain that lasted for several hours. Where did it come from? I drove several hundred miles that day and the next, watching for it but without further luck.—ROBERT L. WOLFF, *Greenville, N. C., July 26, 1953*. (The direction of flight of this bird toward the northeast is interesting since it was almost in direct line with the Santee River delta in South Carolina, where a group of these Kites were seen earlier in May and reported in the September *Chat*. Possibly this individual reached Virginia, which was less than 100 miles ahead. —*Dept. Ed.*).

**Sparrow Hawk Breeding at Wilmington, N. C.**—The breeding range of the Eastern Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius sparverius*), is given in *Birds of North Carolina* as “—Raleigh and Fayetteville westward, possibly only a winter visitor farther east.” On June 14, 1953, I collected an immature female of this species near the Wilmington Shipyard, within the city limits of Wilmington. This coastal record is a considerable extension eastward of the previously known breeding range of this hawk in North Carolina.

On June 1, 1953, I saw a male and a female Sparrow Hawk perched in an old, long-dead pine, standing in a small shallow pond directly across the road from the Wilmington Shipyard. This pine had been used for years as a breeding site by Redheaded Woodpeckers and Starlings, so I decided to watch it closely in hopes that the hawks were also nesting there. I could not locate the nest on subsequent trips, but on June 14 I saw a young hawk perched in a dead bush at the edge of the pond and I immediately collected it. It is a female. Wing, 5 inches, tail 2.60 inches, with the skull not completely ossified. (Average measurements for adult female: wing 7.80 in., tail, 5.18 in.) This specimen has been deposited in the State Museum in Raleigh.—JOHN B. FUNDERBURG, JR., *Wilmington, N. C.* (This report from Funderburg preceded by a few weeks a letter from Mrs. Cecil Appleberry, dated Aug. 18, in which she reported a young male Sparrow Hawk almost certainly from the same brood as the female taken by Funderburg: “On July 8, Mr. L. L. Voss took Cecil and me to his office at the Shipyard and showed us a young male Sparrow Hawk which he had in his office. The baby was picked up *about three weeks previously* by the chief guard and had been living in the office ever since. The guard found it while the mother was feeding it on the ground and it was too small and tame to be afraid. Mr. Voss had turned it loose twice, but each time it came back. So that makes a breeding record.”—*Dept. Ed.*).

**Florida Gallinule in Columbia, S. C.**—On October 1, 1953, a Florida Gallinule, apparently uninjured, was found on a street in the city of Columbia and brought to me. It was released the following day on a pond at the Styx Fish Hatchery in Lexington, S. C.—EDDIE FINLAY, *Executive Assistant, Wildlife Resources Department of South Carolina, Columbia, S. C.*

**Golden Plovers in the Carolinas.**—Writing from Raleigh on October 11, Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green contributed the following: “On the afternoon of Oct. 6, 1953, we (she and her sister) went to Holden’s Beach in southeastern North Carolina. In an isolated section, recently opened up, and with few cottages and almost no traffic, on a mud-sand flat on the side of the road away from the beach, I got an excellent view—close-up—of a Golden Plover. I watched it for half an hour.”

The Golden Plover is a rare transient on the Carolina coast in the fall and is practically unheard of in the spring. The species is well known to Mrs. Green through her years of birding in the northern parts of this country. Holden’s Beach is a narrow sand strip directly on the Atlantic, a scant 20 miles above the South Carolina state line.

Other fall records of the Golden Plover have come to us from Robert J. Lemaire, Assistant Manager of the Santee National Wildlife Refuge at Summerton, S. C.: Nov. 6, 1952, two were seen at the Cuddo section of the refuge, and on Nov. 13 of that year, there were seven Plovers in the same area. Mr. Lemaire included in his report, a Golden Plover at the refuge on Dec. 7 and 14, 1951, "possibly the same bird."—*Dept. Ed.*

**Shore Birds at Wilmington, N. C.**—Ft. Fisher Inlet, August 14, 1953, the day after the hurricane! I spent two and one half hours today in close company with 23 Hudsonian Curlews, 5 Marbled Godwits, and 3 Long-billed Curlews, along with hordes of Thick-billed Plovers, Piping Plovers, and other shore birds. They were feeding on a mud flat and seemed utterly unafraid as long as I stayed about 75 feet away. Once a Hudsonian, a Godwit, and a Long-billed Curlew lined up in that order, almost touching, and I had a wonderful opportunity to compare size, color, and bills. The Long-bill towered over the Godwit who in turn towered over the Hudsonian. It was a wonderful experience and more than worth the effort of wading around after them.—EDNA APPLEBERRY, *Wilmington, N. C.*

**Horned Larks nesting at Winston-Salem, N. C.**—In the afternoon of July 12th, 1953, my wife and I discovered two Horned Larks, with the white face pattern of the Prairie Horned Lark, on the playing field of Glenn High School about four miles from Winston-Salem. Dr. and Mrs. M. P. Spenser and their daughter were close by, and the group of us observed four of these birds in all: two plainly marked adults; another which had a very thin black neck patch, no "horns," and little yellow at the throat, and which we took to be an immature; and a fourth bird which was a fledgling unable to fly more than four or five feet, and which we easily caught. Dr. Spenser took pictures of the fledgling in the hand, and of an adult with the fledgling.

We observed these birds with binoculars from distances as close as 15 feet for about an hour.—EDWARD KISSAM, *Winston-Salem, N. C.*

**Swainson's Warbler Breeding in Georgetown County, S. C.**—At intervals from 1937 to 1953, covering a period of about six years, Mrs. Hodel and I searched for the Swainson's Warbler on our vacations. It was not until the lucky seventh year, after searching from Charleston, South Carolina north to Myrtle Beach that we finally found four birds on July 11, 1953. The locale was just north of Brookgreen Gardens in a dense cane growth at the edge of a swamp. There were two adults and two young—the latter being in full feather. The young were being fed by the adults. The birds were quite unafraid and we approached so closely that we could not focus with our field glasses. An attempt was made to make pictures but the growth was too dense and the light too poor.

Swainson's Warbler may not be as scarce as indicated. Probably the restricted area in which it is found and the miserable conditions under which it must be sought have kept it from being considered common.

In *South Carolina Bird Life*, Swainson's Warbler is commented on as follows: First discovered by Dr. John Bachman in 1833. It was named by Audubon for his English friend. There are no further records until the bird was "rediscovered" by Wayne in 1884. From then on, we have scattered records up to the present time. Considered as a rare summer resident April 1st. to September 28th, in all but the northwestern part of South Carolina.

Considerable extensions of the earlier known breeding range have been recorded in recent years. In the Carolinas the species is unique in summering both on the coast and in the Alleghenies, with no tie across the broad belt of our Piedmont region.—EARL M. HODEL, *Elkin, N. C.*

**Unusually high nest of the Cardinal**—On June 19, 1953, at Columbia, South Carolina, 2 Cardinals were fledged from a high and most unusual nest site. The nest was located 32 feet from the ground in a pecan tree. It was saddled in the fork of a small branch about 6 feet from the main trunk of the tree. The nest was first noticed on June 12, 1953 when the female was observed taking food to the young. On June 18, the young were still in the

nest. On June 19, the 2 young birds were seen being fed by the female in a small thicket of bushes a short distance from the nest tree. There is no apparent reason for this unusual nest site as there is plenty of more conventional nesting cover available nearby.—DAVID MONTEITH, *Columbia, S. C.*, June 22, 1953.

**Dickcissels at Lenoir, N. C.**—On April 22, 1953, Mrs. C. S. Warren called me to her home and I saw in a feeder just outside her window a female Dickcissel feeding with House Sparrows. It was easy to compare and note the differences between the female sparrows and the Dickcissel. The latter seemed unafraid and returned to the feeder repeatedly. It was watched at this same location almost daily until June 8. On this last day the sparrows were beginning to chase it.

On May 1st, I saw a female Dickcissel on the ground outside of my window. It was there again on May 3rd. Presumably this was the same bird that appeared so regularly in Mrs. Warren's yard, since her home is nearby. However, on May 18, a large group of birds, mostly sparrows, was feeding in my yard and I saw among them a male Dickcissel. I had a good view of it with my glasses. I saw the male only on this one day. —MARY MAY (MRS. FRED H.), *Lenoir, N. C.*

**Late White-throated Sparrow at Wilmington, N. C.**—The White-throated Sparrow is a regular winter visitor here on the coast, but usually leaves this area before the end of May, so it is of interest to record an adult White-throated Sparrow heard in song and seen in full sunlight on the east side of the Cape Fear River about seven miles below Wilmington on June 20, 1953. This is much later than the record of May 31, 1939, recorded at Orton by Bragaw (*Birds of North Carolina*—1942). The spot where this bird was seen is in the same geographical location as Orton, but directly across the Cape Fear River from it.—JOHN B. FUNDERBURG, JR., *Wilmington, N. C.*

**Song Sparrow Nesting in Greenville County, S. C.**—In *South Carolina Bird Life* (1949) the statement is made that no nest of the Song Sparrow had ever been discovered, but that T. D. Burleigh, the eminent ornithologist, had, in 1931, seen a young of the Mississippi Song Sparrow on the wing somewhere in the Saluda Mountains of South Carolina.

On June 17th, 1953, driving from the South through the Saluda Mountains, on my way to Tuxedo, North Carolina, I heard the song of this Sparrow near Tiny Town, South Carolina. Later, during July, I made a special trip to ascertain how many of these birds might be breeding in the 9½ mile stretch through these mountains, and discovered but three pair of birds, all of which were heard singing and were very probably breeding birds. Again in mid-August I made a third trip to the Saluda Mountain area, finding at least one pair just over the boundary line, and 2½ miles into South Carolina, one mile from Lazy Town, discovered a nest 4½ feet above the ground in a white pine sapling beside Highway 25, which nest had been used but was now empty. The nest was photographed in standing pine, then collected for evidence.

No Mississippi Song Sparrows were found beyond 9½ miles and at the foot of these mountains. This Sparrow is very scarce in this region and five to eight pairs might comprise the entire population.

I made a special trip to Caesar's Head and the Cleveland area of South Carolina, and not a single Song Sparrow was heard or seen, nor were any old nests found. I do not think this species has yet reached this part of South Carolina.

In a recent issue of *The Chat* (17:75, 76, 1953), there is contained a report of several nests found at Clemson College, May 8, 1953, in which one nest contained five young Mississippi Song Sparrows, and nearby, a pipped egg was found and collected. This is probably the first occupied nest of this Sparrow ever to have been found in South Carolina.

These records constitute positive evidence of the breeding of this sparrow

in South Carolina, where at present it is a very rare bird and found only locally in limited numbers.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Florida, September 16, 1953*. (The passage in *South Carolina Bird Life* referred to by Mr. Nicholson actually reads as follows: "The Mississippi is the only race of Song Sparrow that breeds in South Carolina. It seems to be slightly increasing in numbers since it was first found breeding in 1931 by Thomas D. Burleigh. On May 25 of that year he saw a pair of adults feeding young just out of the nest at Saluda Gap, Greenville County."—*Dept. Ed.*)

**Snow Buntings near Pittsboro, Chatham Co., N. C.**—On April 25, 1953, at about 11:30 a.m., I saw a number of White-throated Sparrows and Goldfinches feeding in the pasture. I was suddenly startled at seeing strange birds among them, and stood almost breathless for about three minutes. I moved nearer to them but they flew toward a small stream and perched on some brush. I followed to get another look at them. After a few seconds they flew across the stream and toward the creek. The Sparrows went with them but the Goldfinches remained in the pasture.

I had never seen Snow Buntings before, but reference to Peterson's and Audubon field guides convinced me of the identity of these birds at once. The male matched the spring plumage in the Audubon plate. The females, or young, were similar to the pictures in Peterson's guide.

Four days later, April 29, at about 11:00 a.m., from my kitchen window, I again saw a male Snow Bunting and three females. They were feeding in the grass under a fig bush. I watched them for a few minutes and then hurried out with my field glasses to get another look at them. They flew into the grape arbor, then toward the barn in the pasture, and down toward the creek. That afternoon at about 3 o'clock they were in the pasture again, but I have not seen them since.

*Birds of North Carolina* (1945), gives very few records of the Snow Bunting in this state.—CLARA HEARNE, *Pittsboro, N. C., July 15, 1953*. (These observations by Miss Hearne, former President of the North Carolina Bird Club, are particularly valuable because of location. Pittsboro is approximately 150 miles inland, and the few records we have for the Carolinas are confined to the coast.—*Dept. Ed.*)

#### Briefs for the Files.

**Common Loon**, 1 immature, Shackleford Bank, off Morehead City, N. C., June 20, 1953, Robert Holmes, III. **American Bittern**, Mt. Olive, N. C., Apr. 25, 1953, Robert Holmes, III. **Wood Duck**, female with 10 young, in NE Cape Fear Swamp, Apr. 25, 1953, Robert Holmes, III. **Lesser Scaup**, 1 female on City Lake, Rocky Mount, N. C., from June 13 through Sept. 13, 1953, apparently uninjured, kept company with domestic ducks, J. W. E. Joyner. **Ruddy Duck**, 1 on Country Club pond, Elkin, N. C., Aug. 1 & 2, 1953, Earl M. Hodel. **Red-breasted Merganser**, 1 female, Shackleford Bank off Morehead City, N. C., July 6, 1953, Robert Holmes, III. **Marsh Hawk**, 1 over the dunes at Duck, N. C., July 30, 1953, J. W. E. Joyner. **Hudsonian Curlew**, 1 at Lake Moultrie, Santee National Refuge, Summerton, S. C., May 21, 1953, Robert J. Lemaire. **White-rumped Sandpiper**, 2 at Lake Johnson, Raleigh, Sept. 1, 1953, William Hon. **Stilt Sandpiper**, 1 at Lake Johnson, Raleigh, Sept. 4, 1953, William Hon; 1 at Salem Lake, Winston-Salem, N. C., July 21, 1953, T. W. Simpson. **Black-necked Stilt**, 2 pair again nesting at Cape Romain Refuge, McClellanville, S. C., 1 nest and 4 eggs located this summer, Paul Sturm. **Night Hawk**, single bird over Rocky Mount, N. C., Oct. 7, 1953, J. W. E. Joyner. **Barn Swallow**, 5 pair nesting in boathouse of Wildlife Refuge, McClellanville, S. C., this summer, Paul Sturm. **Common Raven**, 2 on Snake Mountain, Watauga Co., N. C., Sept. 30, 1953, Roy M. Brown. **Worm-eating Warbler**, 1 apparently immature, Winston-Salem, N. C., July 13, 1953, T. W. Simpson. **Blackburnian Warbler**, several immature at Rocky Mount, N. C., Oct. 9 & 10, 1953, J. W. E. Joyner. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, 1 male, Chapel Hill, N. C., May 3 & 13, 1953, Robert Holmes, III. **Painted Bunting**, 3 at Carolina Beach, N. C., Aug. 15, 1953, Polly Mebane and Edna Appleberry.

## New Members, July 10—Oct. 1, 1953

### Supporting members:

Grady, Judge Henry A.  
Box 1297, New Bern, N. C.

### Regular members:

Adams, Miss Anne Shand  
75-A Tradd St., Charleston, S. C.

Ashcraft, Mrs. F. B.  
2625 Van Dyke Ave., Raleigh, N. C.

Bowdine, J. A.  
Box 1242, Wilmington, N. C.

Bregger, J. T.  
318 College Ave., Clemson, S. C.

Brown, Gordon H.  
823 Shull St., West Columbia, S. C.

Campbell, Miss Nancy  
Eastover, S. C.

Cathey, Mrs. George  
Box 475, Tryon, N. C.

Chase, Miss Vera L.  
640 North West Broad St., Southern  
Pines, N. C.

Conner, Mrs. R. W.  
415 E. Farris Ave., High Point, N. C.

Gault, Mr. Lynn  
Brasstown, N. C.

Green, Mrs. F. A.  
Box 1838, Myrtle Beach, S. C.

Howard, Mrs. H. Leslie  
910 Kanuga Rd., Hendersonville, N. C.

Jaeger, Henry J.  
Jaeger, Mrs. Henry J.  
108 Baptist St., Marion, S. C.

Kelly, Mrs. Forest  
226 Broad St., Sumter, S. C.

LeGrand, Miss Meta  
116 S. Fourth St., Wilmington, N. C.

Lipp, Mr. Frank  
1519 Greenville Highway  
Hendersonville, N. C.

Mairs, Dr. Daniel A.  
3394 Hagaru Dr., Tarawa Ter.  
Camp LeJeune, N. C.

Miller, James I.  
399 Lakeside Dr., Asheville, N. C.

Ouzts, Mrs. W. H.  
519 Woodland St., Spartanburg, S. C.

Poe, Charles Aycock, Jr.  
Lord Ashley Road, Raleigh, N. C.

Rigsby, W. A.  
Rigsby, Mrs. W. A.  
2226 Hastings Dr., Charlotte, N. C.

Shaw, Mrs. W. M.  
1001 Clarendon St., Fayetteville, N. C.

Smith, Mrs. W. H.  
Rocky Mount, N. C.

Taylor, Bernard M.  
Rehoboth, Md.

Thorpe, Mrs. H. R.  
1902 Alexander Road, Raleigh, N. C.

Tolleson, L. C.  
24 Clarendon, Greenville, S. C.

Tuttle, Miss Louise Jennings  
RFD. 6, Box 29A, Lenoir, N. C.

Warner, Mrs. Robah  
1861, Runnymede Road, Winston-Salem,  
N. C.

Watson, Adger I.  
3700A Old Buncombe Rd., Greenville,  
S. C.



## MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE JANUARY 1!

Let's renew now and save lots of late holiday work for the Treasurer.

Regular	\$1.00	Club	\$ 2.00
*Family	\$3.00	Contributing	\$ 25.00
Supporting	\$5.00	Life	\$100.00

\* Please include names of all members of the family. Make all checks payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Send renewals and new memberships to:

E. W. Winkler, *Treasurer*  
509 Gardner St., Raleigh, N. C.



Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular	\$1.00	Contributing	\$25.00
Supporting	\$5.00	Affiliated Club	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

### OFFICERS FOR 1953-1954

*President:* Robert Overing, Route 4, Raleigh, N. C.

*Vice-Presidents:* Thomas W. Simpson, Winston-Salem, N. C.; I. S. H. Metcalf, Charleston, S. C.; Fred H. May, Lenoir, N. C.

*Secretary:* Miss May W. Puett, Box 2183, Greenville, S. C.

*Treasurer:* Edwin W. Winkler, 509 Gardner St., Raleigh, N. C.

The *Executive Committee* is composed of the Officers, the Editors, and the following four elected Members-at-large: Rhett Chamberlain, Matthews, N. C.; Linville Hendren, Elkin, N. C.; Mrs. W. C. Mebane, Wilmington, N. C. and Fred Sample, Columbia, S. C.